



WALSALL
COUNTY BOROUGH
HEALTH REPORT
1957

66188





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HEALTH REPORT
1957

THOMAS ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and
Principal School Medical Officer



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CONTENTS

GENERAL HEALTH

HEALTH COMMITTEE - - - - -	v
EDUCATION COMMITTEE - - - - -	v
STAFF - - - - -	vi
INTRODUCTION—M.O.H. - - - - -	1
SUMMARY OF STATISTICS - - - - -	3
CORONER'S INQUESTS - - - - -	4
VITAL STATISTICS - - - - -	4
TABLE—CAUSES OF DEATH - - - - -	6
INFECTIOUS DISEASES - - - - -	8
NURSING HOMES - - - - -	11
SCABIES TREATMENT - - - - -	11
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS - - - - -	11
CLEANSING OF PERSONS - - - - -	11
NURSERIES AND CHILD-MINDERS - - - - -	12
PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS - - - - -	12
CREMATION - - - - -	13
VENEREAL DISEASES - - - - -	13
HEALTH EDUCATION - - - - -	15

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN - - - - -	16
ATTENDANCES AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRES - - - - -	18
ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS - - - - -	18
CHILD WELFARE CENTRES - - - - -	19
DENTAL TREATMENT - - - - -	19
DAY NURSERIES - - - - -	20
MATERNITY OUTFITS - - - - -	20
PROVISION OF FOODS - - - - -	20
UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN - - - - -	21
PREMATURE INFANTS - - - - -	23
EMERGENCY MATERNITY SERVICE - - - - -	24
MATERNAL MORTALITY - - - - -	24
INFECTIOUS DISEASES—MOTHERS AND INFANTS - - - - -	24
INFANT MORTALITY - - - - -	24
CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS - - - - -	24
MIDWIFERY SERVICE - - - - -	26
HEALTH VISITING - - - - -	28
HOME NURSING - - - - -	32
VACCINATION - - - - -	34
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION - - - - -	34
VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS - - - - -	36
AMBULANCE SERVICE - - - - -	37

CONTENTS—*continued.*

SICK-ROOM APPLIANCES SERVICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
MILK ASSISTANCE SCHEME	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
TUBERCULOSIS AFTER CARE	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
CONVALESCENT TREATMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
BLIND PERSONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
TUBERCULOSIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
MENTAL HEALTH	-	-	-	-	-	-	45

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

[illegible]

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

[illegible]

TABLES

1. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS	-	-	-	-	-	100
2. INFESTATION WITH VERMIN	-	-	-	-	-	101
3. DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION	-	-	-	-	-	102
4. TREATMENT	-	-	-	-	-	104
5. DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT	-	-	-	-	-	106

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

From May, 1957 to May, 1958

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor E. A. Brockhurst, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councillor D. M. Middleton.

Alderman R. Davies	Councillor E. M. Flint
Alderman H. S. Gwinnutt	Councillor L. Harrington
Alderman M. J. Kavanagh, M.C.	Councillor J. Leadbeater
Councillor D. Cartwright	Councillor A. M. M. Taylor
Councillor W. Clarke	Councillor E. M. Thomas

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor E. M. Flint.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councillor F. F. Harrison.

Alderman F. W. Evans, J. P.	Councillor A. V. Townsend
Alderman A. McShane	Councillor H. F. Truman
Alderman T. P. Riley, J.P.	Mrs. V. G. Parkes
Councillor E. A. Brockhurst, J.P.	Rev. J. M. Furness, B.D.
Councillor J. R. R. Benton	Rev. W. Sheeran
Councillor W. Clarke	Rev. V. S. Nicholls
Councillor L. Harrington	Mr. E. Jay
Councillor M. C. Jarvis	Mr. A. W. Lester
Councillor P. H. Musgrove	Mr. A. Lucas
Councillor A. M. M. Taylor	Mr. C. Tomkinson

STAFF

(at 31st December, 1957)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER	Thomas Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	H. C. Milligan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	I. M. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G., D.C.H.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	M. D. Wigley, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	G. P. A. Evans, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER	R. E. Morgan, L.D.S.
SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER	Mrs. I. M. Millar, L.D.S.
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	C. A. Stansbury.
DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	E. Bayley.
Staff	11 Public Health Inspectors (10 Full-time, 1 Part-time). 3 Pupil Public Health Inspectors. 8 Clerks.
PUBLIC ANALYST	F. G. D. Chalmers, MA., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
DEPUTY PUBLIC ANALYST	C. N. Grange, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR	Miss G. Johnson.
Staff	9 Health Visitors (8 Full-time, 1 Part-time). 1 Acting Health Visitor. 4 Pupil Health Visitors (includes 1 awaiting course). 1 Tuberculosis Visitor. 3 Clinic Nurses (Part-time). 3 School Nurses.
SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES	Mrs. M. E. Smith.
Staff	14 Municipal Midwives.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	P. Shoesmith.
Staff	9 Clerks (8 Full-time, 1 Part-time). 5 Sales Clerks—Part-time.
DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER (MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE)	F. H. Parker. 1 part-time Deputy.
SENIOR MENTAL WELFARE OFFICER	Miss F. Grant. 1 Assistant.
SUPERVISOR OCCUPATION CENTRE	Miss E. Ratford. 2 Assistants.
MATRONS—DAY NURSERIES	Mrs. N. Clark. Mrs. C. Morton.
AMBULANCE SUPERVISOR	H. J. Addison.
LADY SUPT.—HOME NURSING	Miss R. E. Bennion.
Staff	12 District Nurses. 4 District Nurses—Part-time.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY
BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report on the health of the County Borough of Walsall during the year 1957.

The improvement noted in the latter part of 1956 in the staffing position of the department was maintained throughout 1957 and this was reflected in the general increase in the volume of work noted in the report.

A further improvement in the infantile mortality rate, reaching a new low level at 26.57, is to be noted, the infantile mortality rate for England and Wales being 23.0.

In 1948 at the inception of the National Health Service my predecessor took the opportunity to review the general improvement in vital statistics in the preceeding 25 years and it is interesting to note that in the succeeding 9 years improvements of a similar order have occurred in nearly every one of the usual indices of the health of the community, indicating the accelerating rate at which we are approaching the irreducible minimum of incidence of death and

disease. Notably, infant deaths in the nine year period have been almost halved, deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis are reduced to one-fifth of the 1948 rate, and, so far from there being any deaths from diphtheria, no cases have been notified during 1957. However, on the debit side, deaths from cancer which nearly doubled in the twenty-five year period before 1948, have again advanced by one-third in the last nine years.

Although it is always difficult to assess in pounds, shillings and pence the effect of these enormous improvements in mortality and morbidity, the total economic effect must be very substantial and should not be overlooked in considering the expenditure on staff and equipment necessary to effect a continuing improvement.

Slum clearance proceeded during the year as fast as the allocation of houses permitted.

In conclusion I wish to place on record my appreciation of the support given by the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and to thank the staff of the department for their efforts during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS ROSS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,780
Population	...	...	(At Census 1951)	...	...	...	114,535
Number of Structurally Separate Dwellings (At Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,380
Number of Families	...	...	(At Census 1951)	...	...	...	32,425
Population 1957 (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	114,800
Rateable Value (1/4/1958)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,084,678
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1958/9)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£4,300
Population per Acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.1

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Number of Live Births Registered	...	...	...	...	1,995
(Legitimate: M., 973 F., 931 Total 1,904)					
(Illegitimate: M., 47 F., 44 Total 91)					
Number of Still Births Registered	...	...	...	...	65
(Legitimate: M., 22 F., 41 Total 63)					
(Illegitimate: M., 2 F., — Total 2)					
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Live Births)	...	...	...	...	17.38
Standardised Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	16.34
Number of Deaths (M., 677, F., 594)	...	...	...	...	1.271
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	11.07
Standardised Death Rate	...	...	...	...	12.29
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion	...	...	...	...	—
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 (live and still) Births	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	53
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	26.57
Infant Mortality (legitimate infants) per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	25.74
Do. (illegitimate infants) Do.	...	...	...	...	43.96
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	31.55
Death Rate per 1,000 Population, from:—					
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.139
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.017
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	1.61
Cancer	...	...	...	...	2.20
Death Rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis of Children under 2 years of age, per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	0.50
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	3

Coroner's Inquests

The number of deaths reported to the Coroner during the year was 281 (186 males and 95 females).

Deaths investigated by the Coroner but no inquest held, 165.
 POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner 146

VERDICTS RETURNED AT INQUESTS:—

	M.	F.
Death by Murder	—	—
„ „ Suicide	8	4
„ „ Manslaughter	—	—
„ „ Self-induced Abortion	—	—
„ „ Neglect	—	—
„ „ Want of attention at Birth	—	1
„ „ Want, Exposure, etc.	—	—
„ „ Accident or Misadventure	38	26
Death from Natural Causes	19	3
Death from Industrial Diseases	11	—
Stillborn	—	—
Open Verdicts	1	1
	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 35

4 deaths reported during the year will be dealt with in 1958 verdicts.

Vital Statistics

The Birth Rate shows a slight decrease, being 17.38 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 17.41 for 1956, the figures for England and Wales being 16.10 and 15.60 respectively. The Illegitimate Birth Rate shows an increase, being 0.79 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0.73 for 1956. There were 91 illegitimate live births in 1957 and 84 in 1956.

There was an increase in the Death Rate, this being 11.07 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 10.91 for 1956, the figures for England and Wales being 11.50 and 11.70 respectively.

The Infant Mortality Rate again shows a decrease, being 26.57 per 1,000 births against 27.04 in 1956. The rate for England and Wales was 23.00 and 23.70 respectively. The illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate has increased to 43.96 per 1,000 illegitimate births from 35.71 in 1956.

There were 65 stillbirths, giving a rate of 31.55 per 1,000 live and stillbirths. The rate for England and Wales was 22.40.

There were no maternal deaths during 1957, as was the case in 1956. The respective rates for England and Wales were 0.47 and 0.56.

The Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis has decreased to 0.14 per 1,000 of the population, from 0.24 in 1956. The rates for England and Wales are 0.095 and 0.109 respectively. From other Respiratory Diseases the Death Rate has slightly increased, being 1.61 against 1.50 in 1956.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH 1957

As furnished by the Registrar-General

CAUSES OF DEATH		Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
ALL CAUSES	.. ..	M. F.	677 594	29 24	2 4	3 5	9 3	34 26	214 109	182 145	204 278
1. Tuberculosis—Respiratory	.. ..	M. F.	15 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	7 —	7 —	1 —
2. Tuberculosis—Other	.. ..	M. F.	1 1	— —	1 —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —
3. Syphilitic Disease	.. ..	M. F.	1 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	1 —
4. Diphtheria	.. ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Whooping Cough	.. ..	M. F.	1 2	1 2	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6. Meningococcal Infections	.. ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	.. ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
8. Measles	.. ..	M. F.	2 —	1 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	.. ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
10. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	.. ..	M. F.	22 26	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 1	11 10	5 4	6 11
11. " " Lung, Bronchus	.. ..	M. F.	50 5	— —	— —	— —	— —	3 —	30 3	12 2	5 —
12. " " Breast	.. ..	M. F.	— 32	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 4	— 11	— 9	— 8
13. " " Uterus	.. ..	F.	16	—	—	—	—	4	7	2	3
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	.. ..	M. F.	45 57	— —	— —	— 1	2 —	— 1	15 15	14 20	14 20
15. Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	.. ..	M. F.	3 3	— —	— —	1 1	— —	1 1	1 1	— —	— —

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1957

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT												TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD									
	At All Ages	At Ages—Years											Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Blakenall Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward	Caldmore Ward	Palfrey Ward
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65											65 and upwards
Small-Pox..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	37	—	—	4	5	6	21	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	9	3	3	—	1	8
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	1282	56	131	192	201	199	488	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	104	243	151	88	195	122	103
Whooping Cough..	458	50	58	57	59	59	160	11	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	83	80	80	30	49	10	23
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Poliomyelitis — Paralytic ..	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneu- monia ..	245	11	2	3	4	4	7	18	22	32	74	44	30	49	50	13	22	11	14	24	11	21	
Dysentery ..	6	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	9
Food Poisoning ..	6	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis of Res- piratory System ..	102	—	1	2	—	—	3	19	22	18	26	9	9	14	14	12	13	2	6	12	7	13	
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	
TOTALS ..	2157	121	196	259	269	268	700	43	51	54	107	53	239	401	306	146	286	147	104	239	118	171	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

No cases of Diphtheria were notified. 2,331 children (1,037 under the age of five years and 1,294 between the ages of five and fifteen), were immunised against the disease. 1,158 children were given a reinforcing dose.

Scarlet Fever

37 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as compared with 105 in the previous year. The disease was of a mild character and there were no deaths.

Measles

Measles was more prevalent, 1,282 cases being notified as compared with 813 in the previous year. There were two deaths.

Whooping Cough

458 cases of Whooping Cough were notified as compared with 418. There were three deaths.

Acute Poliomyelitis

4 cases of Paralytic Poliomyelitis and 1 case of Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified. No deaths occurred.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

245 cases were notified as compared with 186. There were 76 deaths from this cause during the year, an increase of 17 on the previous year. Influenza accounted for 28 deaths as compared with 8 in the previous year.

Dysentery

6 cases of Dysentery were notified during the year.

Other Diseases

6 cases of Erysipelas, 2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and 1 case of Meningococcal Infection were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

6 cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

NURSING HOMES

At the end of the year there were no nursing homes registered under the Public Health Act, 1936.

There is one Home for Disabled and Old Persons, Registered under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

The Senior Medical Officer has paid four visits during the year.

SCABIES TREATMENT

The Scabies Clinic at Hatherton Road is still maintained and during the past year the number of cases attending has decreased.

Although the number of cases of scabies in the town has declined, we still feel it is necessary to provide clinic facilities, but by appointment only.

During the year 2 men and 13 children received treatment, these cases making a total number of 50 attendances for this purpose.

CLEANSING OF PERSONS

Owing to staffing difficulties the arrangement whereby unclean persons were cleansed at St. John's Hospital had to be discontinued and arrangements were made for the work to be carried out at the Cleansing Station at the Ambulance Station in Hatherton Road. During the year 5 persons were treated there.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The medical staff of the health department carry out medical examinations on behalf of the various corporation departments on candidates for admission to the superannuation scheme and also act as medical examiners in cases where corporation employees are reported to be medically unfit to continue in the Council's service. The following table shews the number of medical examinations carried out during the year:—

Transport Department	...	...	...	...	279
Education Department	...	...	...	...	162
Public Works Department	...	...	...	...	55
Health Department	...	...	...	...	47
Housing Department	...	...	...	...	61
Children Department	...	...	...	...	12
Town Clerk's Department	...	...	...	...	7
Borough Treasurer's Department	...	...	...	...	8
Fire Department	...	...	...	...	7
Workshops for the Blind	...	...	...	...	4
Baths, Parks and Cemeteries Department	...	...	...	...	59
Welfare Department	...	...	...	...	1
Police Department	...	...	...	...	17
Public Libraries	...	...	...	...	4
Civil Defence Department	...	...	...	...	1
Other Authorities	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/>
					726
					<hr/>

NURSERIES AND CHILD-MINDERS

The Nurseries and Child-minders Regulations Act, 1948, provides for the registration of nurseries and child-minders where children numbering more than 2 and who come from more than one household are cared for. The Act does not apply to the care of children by relatives.

The care of such children in Walsall has never been a serious problem and up to the end of the year no premises or persons had been registered under the Act.

PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The arrangement for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens by the National Laboratories Service has continued throughout the year. The laboratory, situated at Stafford, is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health, and the service is a complete one covering all our possible requirements.

The medical staff of the Health Department send specimens for examination regularly and the service is also open to any of the local medical practitioners.

The bacteriological examination of milk and other specimens is also carried out.

CREMATION

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Walsall Corporation under the regulations made in pursuance of the Cremation Act, 1902, and is responsible to the Corporation for the final authority to cremate.

During 1957 certificates were given in respect of 323 deaths of persons who had resided in Walsall and 169 in respect of persons who had resided outside the Borough, a total of 492.

As it is not always possible for the Medical Officer of Health to be present on all occasions when authority to cremate is required, authority was requested for the appointment of deputies to act in his absence, and the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare have been appointed Approved Deputies by the Council with the sanction of the Home Office.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The Venereal Diseases Clinic is situated at Manor Hospital Walsall, the Hospital Management Committee being responsible for the work carried out at the clinic.

We are, however, still concerned with the incidence of Venereal Diseases in the town and continue to work in close co-operation with the Venereal Diseases Medical Officer.

The following table shows the work of the Venereal Diseases Clinic during the year:—

TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1957

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1957 ..	44	35	45	7	39	110	128	152	280
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	1	—	—	—	—	26	1	26	27
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time ..	8	6	82	11	173	207	263	224	487
Number of new cases transferred from other centres ..	—	2	1	—	1	—	2	2	4
Total cases dealt with	53	43	128	18	213	343	394	404	798
Attendances—Medical examinations	481	260	428	39	803	983	1712	1282	2994
Irrigation, dressings	178	68	166	—	565	1121	909	1189	2098
Total attendances	659	328	594	39	1368	2104	2621	2471	5092
Number of new cases attending during 1957									
Walsall	7	7	69		217		293		293
Other areas	7		24		163		194		194
Pathological Work —	Microscopical		Cultural		Serum		Cerebro Spinal Fluid		
Specimens examined at Walsall Treatment Centre									
Specimens examined at a Pathological Centre	25	1167	90	—	—	601	—	163	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

HEALTH EDUCATION

Throughout the year we have continued our campaign of health education by means of posters, lectures, and talks to various groups, and find these methods a most effective way of bringing our viewpoint to the public. The method adopted is not spectacular, but the cumulative effect of persistently impressing health education on various groups brings its reward. Posters supplied by the Central Council for Health Education and the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents are displayed at the Welfare Centres, Clinics and waiting rooms in the Council House, and these posters prove very useful indeed. Particular attention has been given throughout the year to accidents and dangers in the home and this side of our educational work will continue to receive attention.

Publicity has been carried out throughout the year relating to vaccination against smallpox, infant diphtheria immunisation and vaccination against polio. Advertisements in the local press, circulars to schools, the distribution through the health visiting staff of invitations to parents to participate in these preventive measures and persistent personal approach at all welfare sessions, have also proved very useful. The response of the public is reasonably satisfactory and we find that personal contact between members of our health visiting, midwifery and home nursing staffs and the public is the most effective form of publicity. Most of the general public have a close interest in the services provided for their welfare and are quite co-operative at all times.

The Superintendent Health Visitor has lectured to 14 women's organisations on various aspects of public health and the services which are available, these lectures being much appreciated. Not the least part of their value is the discussion which follows the formal lecture, where the department's point of view can so often be well expressed.

Additionally, the Superintendent Health Visitor acted as examiner for Girl Guides taking their Child Nurse Badge.

Mothercraft classes for young women expecting their first baby are held weekly at one of our clinics, the course of seven lectures being given by the midwifery and health visiting staff. The attendance at these lectures is very good and we hope to extend this work whenever staff is available. The lectures cover the health services provided in the town, general ante-natal care, gas and air administration, the preparation of the room for a home confinement, preparation of the layette, and the care the mother will receive for the first fourteen days after confinement. A film is shown at the conclusion of these talks on "The Birth of a Baby."

The Health Department has its own film projector and from time to time suitable films are shown during the course of lectures, there being a number of useful films available for this purpose. The officers

concerned, medical and nursing staff in particular, often freely give of their own time for these lectures and thanks are due to these officers for their enthusiasm and concern for this aspect of our work.

Although we are limited in the amount of time which can be given to health education owing to the shortage of staff, we are always willing to arrange for film shows or lectures to be given to any group which requests this service.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Dr. I. M. Brown, Senior Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare, has supplied the following report upon the work in her department:—

“I am pleased to report that, during 1957, there was a slight but nevertheless steady improvement in our Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

The infant mortality rate has fallen slightly from 27.04 to 26.57 per 1,000 live births. Unfortunately our stillbirth rate does not show an improvement, there being 63 stillbirths in 1957 as against 50 in 1956. Investigations were carried out into 60 stillbirths and the results of our investigations show the following facts:—

Fœtal abnormality, with or without hydramnios	...	26%
Toxæmia of pregnancy	... ..	26%
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	... ..	16%

The conclusion to be drawn from these investigations is that there is still a considerable amount of preventive ante-natal work to be done.

We are very pleased once again to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year.

Considerable attention has been given in the past year or so to the improvement of our ante-natal services, and I am pleased to report that attendances at our ante-natal clinics now show some improvement. The arrangements for co-operation between midwives, ante-natal clinics and general practitioners mentioned in previous reports are progressing satisfactorily and it is pleasing to note that many more mothers are taking advantage of the services provided for their benefit. Our midwives also have more opportunities of seeing their patients and keeping themselves informed of their progress.

56 per cent. of the confinements in the borough were attended by the district midwives employed by the Corporation, giving an average of 73 cases per midwife. Whilst this is higher than the recommended number of 66 cases per annum, the Health Committee has alleviated the position somewhat by allowing each midwife to use her own car on the district. In this way there is very little wastage of time and effort in covering their districts.

In addition to being responsible for their midwifery cases, the staff have also been responsible for nursing 559 mothers who were discharged from the maternity hospitals before the 14th day after confinement. Midwives also take part, along with the health visiting staff, in mothercraft lectures to expectant mothers. These classes are proving most successful and helpful, and an interesting development is an arrangement whereby one of the sessions during the short course is allotted to the husbands of the expectant mothers. At these lectures films are shown, discussion is welcomed, and we feel that the course is much appreciated, as is evidenced by increased attendances and the lively discussions which follow.

The dental service for expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age is also much appreciated, and the number of women and children accepting treatment shows a tendency to increase.

The attendance at the child welfare centres shows some increase, which is very welcome, but we feel sure that if mothers realised the benefits which could be obtained by attendance at the centres, more would take advantage of the facilities. Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against whooping cough, diphtheria and poliomyelitis is available at these centres.

During 1957 I was fortunate to attend a course by Professor and Mrs. Ewing in Manchester on the detection of hearing defects in young children, and this course will prove most helpful to me in my work with young children.

Two of the health visitors also attended a short course of training conducted by Mrs. Ewing and obtained certificates of proficiency. We hope, when our staffing position improves, that some routine testing of young children may be carried out.

Arrangements were made for some members of the health visiting staff to attend at the Child Guidance Clinic at West Bromwich, and these visits are proving most instructive and helpful."

**Attendance Registered at the Child Welfare Centres
during 1957**

CENTRE	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St.	1557	585	998	346	523	191	479	154	3557	1276	220
F'd Rd.	2586	784	1395	432	587	196	541	126	5109	1538	366
L'ton St.	1737	658	755	294	388	165	499	131	3379	1248	251
C'tess St.	2540	692	1279	365	690	200	728	126	5237	1383	320
Ida Rd.	1136	412	638	229	416	165	497	101	2687	907	133
D'dley's Fields'	1053	359	436	129	150	50	118	37	1757	575	104
Totals	10609	3490	5501	1795	2754	967	2862	675	21726	6927	1394

A.—Attendances.

M.—Medical Examinations

**Attendances Registered at the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics
during 1957**

	Pool St.		Field Rd.		Countess Street		Ida Rd.		Littleton Street		Totals	
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.
Ante-natal Cases	187	124	880	516	540	406	272	201	673	456	2552	1703
Ante-natal New Cases	55		286		175		88		246		850	
Post-natal Cases	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
Post-natal New Cases	—		1		1		—		—		2	

A.—Attendances.

M.—Medical Examinations.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

There are six child welfare centres in Walsall at which eleven sessions are held weekly, attended by a medical officer and health visitors. There are no special consultant clinics, children requiring specialist opinion being referred to one of the general hospitals in the town. No arrangements have been made for joint clinics with general practitioners in their own premises. Whilst attendances are not as satisfactory as we would like, nevertheless they must be accounted reasonably good taking into account the services provided by general practitioners under the health services.

Talks on mothercraft are given regularly to senior school children at our child welfare centres and these talks are followed by suitable demonstrations by the health visitors. We regretfully have to report that the special sewing class sessions which have been held for some years have declined in popularity and there is now only one special sewing class for mothers held at one of our welfare centres.

After many years representation and negotiation we are glad to report that the Council and the Ministry of Health have at last agreed to the provision of a combined welfare centre, school clinic and dental clinic on the Beechdale Housing Estate and, at the time of writing, the building is well forward towards completion. A welfare centre is badly needed on this outlying estate where access to existing services in the town is very difficult. The centre should fill a much wanted need, and we can only hope that recruitment of the requisite staff to provide services will be successful.

The total number of attendances made by health visitors at local health authority clinic sessions during the year was 1,501.

DENTAL TREATMENT

The Council's proposals under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act provide for every expectant mother to be examined by a Dental Practitioner following her first attendance at an Ante-Natal Clinic, for the periodic examination of children under the age of five years and for the necessary treatment to be provided where required, particular attention to be paid to conservative treatment.

During the year 54 dental sessions were devoted to maternity and child welfare patients, 115 expectant and nursing mothers were examined and 113 were found to require treatment. 84 of these patients attended the Dental Clinic and at the end of the year 58 cases had completed their course of attendances. 9 complete dentures and 5 partial dentures were provided. 172 children under the age of 5 years were examined and 92 were found to need treatment, 78 of whom were treated and made dentally fit.

DAY NURSERIES

There are two Day Nurseries, one situated at the Bescot Methodist School and the other at the Blakenall Congregational School, both Nurseries having been open throughout the whole year.

Mainly the Nurseries are now used by priority classes, that is, the children of parents who of necessity must go out to work, and for such priority cases a specially reduced scale of charges has been instituted by the Health Committee. For these priority cases the Nurseries meet a need which probably cannot be met in any other way and it is expected the Nurseries will continue catering for such children.

The following table shows the average attendances at the nurseries during the year:—

Day Nursery	Average No. on Register	Total No. of attendances	Average daily attendances
Bescot	27	4,303	17.7
Blakenall	25	4,482	18.4

Maternity Outfits

The provision of a maternity outfit to each expectant mother confined at home has been continued, and during the year 1,155 outfits have been issued. The composition of the pack is as follows:—

12 Extra Large Maternity Pads, 24 Large Maternity Pads, individually wrapped, 1 Sheet Tarred Brown Paper, 30 x 36, 1 Accouchment Sheet, 24 x 24, 4 2-oz. packets Surgeons Wool, 3 1-yd. Linen Thread, 6 Cord Dressings (5 x 5 lint), 6 packets Sterilised Cord Powder.

The distribution of the outfits is made through the Municipal Midwives, a sufficient stock being maintained by them to meet all possible needs. There is no doubt the provision of these outfits has been of great benefit to mothers whose confinements are to take place at home and we know they are very much appreciated. The Midwives, also, are assured of adequate equipment for the confinement, together with sterile dressings, and their work has been facilitated accordingly.

Provision of Foods

The Council is responsible for the distribution of National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets in addition to their normal sale of welfare foods, etc.

Arrangements were made for the distribution of the national foods at the normal welfare centre sessions and we are satisfied that this arrangement is providing an efficient and economical service. All foods are available at these sessions so that mothers have the opportunity of consulting either the Medical Officer or the Health Visitor at the same time that they receive their foods. From our point of view it gives an opportunity for closer supervision and regular contact with infants and children. One whole-time and five part-time sales women are employed on this work.

The following table shows the types and amounts of food sold during the year at the Welfare Centres and it will be noted that provision has been fully made for every type of food to be sold to meet the individual children's needs.

53,162 tins	Full Cream National Dried Milk.
237 tins	Half Cream National Dried Milk.
12,926 bottles	Cod Liver Oil.
5,860 pkts.	Vitamin Tablets.
84,455 bottles	Orange Juice.
4,299 lb.	Cow and Gate Dried Milk.
5,969 lb.	Ostermilk.
1,546 lb.	Trufood.
261 tins	Lactogol.
872 tubs	Virol.
3,604 tins	Ovaltine.
89 lb.	Malt and Oil.
1,266 pkts.	Farex.
645 pkts.	Scotts Cereal Infant Food.
151 pkts.	Groats.
180 pkts.	Robrex.

In addition, should any child need a special food, even for only a limited period, steps are immediately taken to obtain a supply for the mother, though the purchase of such foods may occasionally involve the department in a slight financial loss.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

Care of Illegitimate Children

The Walsall County Borough, as the Welfare Authority, is a constituent authority of the Staffordshire County Council Scheme for the care of illegitimate children and their mothers.

Thirty-five cases in which illegitimate births occurred in 1957 have been dealt with by Sister Ellis, the Moral Welfare Officer for the area.

In addition, several mothers whose babies were born in 1956 continued to need assistance in the placing of their child for adoption, or in Homes and in securing Affiliation-Orders.

These latter are not included in this report.

Ten expectant mothers whose confinements are due in 1958 are also receiving help.

459 visits have been made in connection with these cases during the year.

Five cases concerned married women. Two were legally separated. Two were divorced. One was living unhappily with her husband but was reconciled to him when her illegitimate baby, unfit for adoption, was placed in a Residential Nursery.

The remaining 30 cases were single women. One mother was 15 years, still at school. One was 16 years. Three were 17 years, five were 18 years and the remainder were from 19 to 39 years, the majority being from 18 to 23 years of age.

Arrangements were made for the babies as follows:—

12 lived with their mothers at home.

1 lived in rooms with its mother where the landlady cared for it by day.

1 was taken to live with its mother in a residential post.

4 lived with their mother who married the father of the child.

These were legitimatised and new birth certificates secured for them. One of these mothers was married from a Diocesan home.

11 babies were placed for adoption through the Lichfield Diocesan Adoption Society and these adoptions were subsequently legalised.

1 baby was placed with foster-parents.

2 were admitted to voluntary Babies' Homes.

1 entered a Residential Nursery.

1 baby is still with its mother in a Diocesan Home awaiting adoption.

1 baby died in hospital after living an hour.

3 Affiliation Orders were secured.

In every case efforts were made to trace the putative fathers but some were untraceable. In other cases, the mothers preferred the baby to be placed for adoption as they felt this to be in the best interests of the child.

We are satisfied that all the babies are making good progress and are adequately cared for.

The adopted babies were placed in homes approved by the Lichfield Diocesan Adoption Society's Case Committee.

Several babies from other areas have been placed by their Officers with Walsall adoptors and have been visited by Sister Ellis.

Arrangements for the mothers were made as follows:—

23 were accommodated in Diocesan and County Council Homes.

7 went to hospital.

2 gave birth to the child in the home of a relative.

1 confinement took place in the home of the putative father after the mother had married him.

2 mothers remained in their own homes for confinement.

PREMATURE INFANTS

Notifications were received in respect of 177 infants whose birth weight was $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or under, an increase of 9 over the previous year. In some cases the notifications applied to infants who, although the birth weight was of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb or less, were really full-term, but these infants were given the same care as those prematurely born.

Of the 177 infants notified 93 were born at home and 84 in hospital. There were 12 sets of twins. Eleven of the infants born at home were transferred to hospital. One of the 82 infants nursed entirely at home died in the first 24 hours and 79 survived at the twenty-eighth day. Five of the 11 infants who were born at home and transferred to hospital, died in the first 24 hours and 4 survived at the twenty-eighth day.

Six of the 84 infants born in hospital died in the first 24 hours and 71 survived at the end of 28 days.

Of the 53 infants who died under the age of one year, 17 were certified as having died from prematurity, 16 of which were of low birth weight.

There were 30 notifications of premature still-births, 22 of these being born in hospital and 8 at home.

Emergency Maternity Service

Arrangements are in force for the services of an emergency team of doctors and nurses from Manor Hospital with the necessary equipment, to attend complicated cases of labour on the district when required.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths during the year. The death rate in England and Wales was 0.47.

Infectious Diseases

There were 2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year. After treatment the vision was unimpaired and the infants made a good recovery.

There were 2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year.

Care of Premature Infants

The hospital provision for the care of premature infants is adequate and premature infants are transferred to hospital whenever necessary. To those premature infants remaining at home, special nursing care is given by midwives and by the health visitors.

INFANT MORTALITY

The infant death rate per thousand births was 26.57 for the year, a decrease over the rate for 1956 which was 27.04. The infant death rate per thousand births for illegitimate infants was 43.96. The infant death rate per thousand births for England and Wales was 23.00.

An examination of the table relating to Infant Mortality reveals that 66% of deaths under one year of age occurred during the first four weeks of life, 35 children out of a total of 53 dying during this period. A further 8 deaths, or 15%, occurred between the ages of one and three months.

Of the total of 53 infant deaths, 17 were from prematurity, 2 from influenza, 7 from pneumonia, 14 from congenital malformations, 1 from enteritis, 1 from measles, 3 from whooping cough, 2 accidental, 3 from diseases peculiar to infants and 3 from other causes. It will be seen, therefore, that 64% of the deaths were due to premature birth, congenital malformations, and infant diseases, and it would appear the causes of many of these deaths must be sought in conditions which operate ante-natally. It is of the utmost importance that the standard of ante-natal care available to our expectant mothers should be of the highest. The work of hospitals, medical practitioners, ante-natal services, midwives and health visitors should be integrated to attain maximum co-operation of all services and when that satisfactory position has been attained some improvement of the present position may be expected.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1957

Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH	Total Deaths under 1 year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Blakenall	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Other Common Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Premature Birth	17	15	—	1	—	16	1	—	—	—	2	2	3	3	2	2	—	2	1	—
Congenital Malformations ..	14	4	1	2	1	8	5	1	—	—	3	1	2	—	1	1	—	3	2	1
Infant Diseases	3	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
Influenza	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	7	2	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	1
Accidents	2	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Other Causes	3	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	53	27	1	5	2	35	8	7	1	2	6	6	6	6	4	5	—	13	4	3

Nett Births in the Year — Legitimate, 1904 ; Illegitimate, 91.

Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 49 ; Illegitimate Infants, 4.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

The Council operates a Municipal Midwifery Service, the staff of which consisted of 1 Supervisor and 14 Midwives at the end of the year. The service is under the medical supervision of the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and under the constant supervision of the Supervisor of Midwives. For all practical purposes there are no domiciliary midwives employed other than those engaged by the authority.

All the midwives are qualified to administer analgesics, having received their training either at the Birmingham Maternity Hospital, where special courses were arranged, or as part of their S.C.M. qualification. Six gas and air outfits are available to women at confinement and during the year the apparatus was in use on 497 occasions. The use of Pethedine by the Midwives, commenced in 1951, has been continued, the drug being administered to 634 patients. During 1957 four sets of "Trilene" analgesic apparatus have been used on 225 occasions.

The midwives arrange for the ante-natal supervision of their cases at the ante-natal clinics under the supervision of the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, and we are much more satisfied at the close collaboration which results therefrom.

The scheme whereby a closer working arrangement was agreed upon between the ante-natal clinics and the patients' own doctor is at last becoming effective, there having been a great improvement in co-operation during the past year. As mentioned previously, experimental ante-natal clinics are in operation at the premises of four general practitioners, members of our midwifery and health visiting staffs attending.

There is good co-operation between the hospitals and the Health Department relating to the admission of women whose confinement in hospital is recommended on social grounds. Cases are referred to the department by the hospital and our health visiting staff carry out the necessary social enquiries and submit a report which is forwarded to the hospital, where a decision is then made relating to the provision of accommodation for the expectant mother.

The Health Department also co-operates with the Manor Hospital in the training of pupil midwives, the district training being carried out under the supervision of the Supervisor of Midwives.

During 1957 the number of pupil midwives completing their midwifery district training was 7, and we are pleased to report that all pupils were successful in their Final State Certified Midwives Examination.

The Deputy Medical Officer of Health gives lectures to pupil midwives on public health subjects as a part of their curriculum.

Of the Walsall women delivered in the Borough the Municipal Midwives attended 1,020 women, representing 1,029 births (1,010 live and 19 stillbirths) in their own homes. 524 women, representing 533 births (495 live and 38 stillbirths) were delivered in Manor Hospital, and 264 women, representing 269 births (265 live and 4 stillbirths) were delivered at the Maternity Hospital, Bloxwich. It will be seen, therefore, that 56% of Walsall women delivered in the borough were attended in their own homes by Municipal Midwives, giving an average of 73 cases attended by each Municipal Midwife during the year. 6,931 ante-natal visits were made by Municipal Midwives in 1957.

148 Walsall women, representing 149 births (146 live and 3 stillbirths) were delivered outside the Borough, 142 in hospitals or private nursing homes and 6 in private residences, and of 418 women resident outside the Borough 314 were delivered at Manor Hospital, 94 at the Maternity Hospital Bloxwich, and 10 by Municipal Midwives.

The Midwives undertake the nursing of mothers discharged from the maternity units before the fourteenth day from their confinements and 559 such mothers were attended. Although this additional nursing throws a considerable volume of work upon the service we always assist the hospitals when patients have to be discharged before the fourteenth day after confinement. We are very glad indeed to have maintained this excellent co-operation with the Walsall Hospital Management Committee's provision; indeed, without this effective co-operation the Midwifery Service of the town would be greatly handicapped.

Four midwives attended approved Refresher Courses held under the auspices of the Royal College of Midwives during the year, two at Oxford and two at Bristol.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service—1957
(including Nursing Homes)

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Nursing Homes	Totals
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1957 (ex- cluding Hospitals)—			
(a) Employed by the Council	15	—	15
(b) In private practice ..	—	—	—
	15	—	15
	Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Nursing Homes	Totals
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—			
(a) Employed by the Council—			
(i) As Midwives	969	—	969
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	61	—	61
(b) In private practice —			
(i) As Midwives	—	—	—
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	—	—	—
TOTALS { (i) As Midwives ..	969	—	969
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	61	—	61

HEALTH VISITING

During the year the staffing position relating to health visitors has again shown some slight improvement.

During 1957 two of our trainee health visitors obtained their Health Visitors Certificate and were appointed to the department's health visiting staff.

One member of the staff who had been trained through the department's scheme resigned to take up a midwifery post in hospital.

The health visiting staff at the end of the year consisted of 1 superintendent health visitor, 9 health visitors, 1 acting health visitor, 1 tuberculosis visitor, 3 clinic nurses, and 3 school nurses.

Three student health visitors were receiving tuition under the joint scheme arranged by Walsall and the City of Birmingham Health Departments, and one student health visitor, recently appointed, is awaiting entry into the course, meanwhile being employed in the Health Department.

It was not necessary to send any member of the health visiting staff to a post-graduate course during the year as the majority of the staff were recently trained, but it is possible that two health visitors will attend courses during 1958.

Two of our health visitors attended a special In-Service Training Course held in Birmingham for the ascertainment of deafness in young children.

The health visitors have again carried out work in connection with the B.C.G. Vaccination Scheme, whereby children who were in the final year at secondary modern schools some years ago were vaccinated and have since been followed up continuously.

Close and effective co-operation has existed for many years with the Medical Research Council on this work, and it is expected that this co-operation will continue during the coming year.

The liaison between the Diabetic Clinic at the General Hospital and the health visitors has continued during the year, two health visitors being seconded to this collaborative work. The health visitors attend the Diabetic Clinic at the hospital, one each on alternate weeks, and follow ups cases in their own homes as required by the consultant physician. Advice and assistance is given in the home to diabetic patients regarding their diet, insulin-therapy, and any other matter in which the patient might need assistance.

An innovation was the establishment of a Fathercraft Class, held at the end of each adult Mothercraft Class. A film is shown and a general discussion follows with questions and answers by the health visiting staff. At the time of writing this class is experimental, but it is hoped to make it an established feature of our activities.

As a part of their training, 3rd year student nurses from the local hospitals are given two lectures by the Superintendent Health Visitor concerning the public health aspect of their course. Following upon these lectures the nurses are given practical instruction on the district, a feature which is most enlightening and much appreciated.

Lectures are also given by the Superintendent Health Visitor to student nurses at the Preliminary Training School.

The scheme for visiting the aged by a staff of three part-time State Registered Nurses has been continued throughout the year. The number of aged persons included on our register continues to increase, the sources of our information being the health visitors themselves, the W.V.S., the Gas Board, hospitals, and various other voluntary organisations, together with the general public.

Three nurses visiting the aged help and advise in any way they can, such as making contact with the appropriate general practitioner where necessary, contact with the "meals on wheels" service of the Women's Voluntary Service and generally advising the old people on the various sources of help which are available. Encouragement is given where appropriate for the old people to join one of the many suitable clubs which are now in existence for aged persons, it being found that the mutual help available from this source is valuable and appreciated. Nursing advice also is given where necessary, and the whole of the organisation of the Health Department, including the Domestic Help Service, is available to help the old persons over their immediate and pressing difficulties. A large number of old people are very lonely and helpless and they welcome very much this personal contact which the nurses bring and the advice and assistance which they otherwise would not receive.

HEALTH VISITORS											TUBER- CULOSIS VISITORS	
Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years		Children age 2 but under 5 years		Tuberculous Households	Other Cases	Total number of families or households visited by Health Visitors	Total visits paid to tuberculous households
	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits			
8,291	1,365	1,683 *165	1,949	11,357 *1,736	7,524 *857	12,747 *1,503	— —	8,348 *1,232	9,847	1,990 *62		

Figures marked with an asterisk are "No access" visits.

HOME NURSING

The Home Nursing Service, which is based upon the Leckie Memorial Home, has continued to carry out the work so ably carried on for so many years by the voluntary committee of the Victoria Nursing Institution. Since the transfer of the institution and staff to the Council on the 1st April, 1954, the number of staff has been increased as opportunity occurred, and at the end of 1957 there were employed 1 lady superintendent, 12 full-time nurses and 4 part-time nurses. Our full establishment of district nurses is 20 but, through considerable use of cars, it is possible to cover the requirements of the service with our present establishment.

There is no doubt the home nursing service plays a great part in relieving the demand for hospital beds. Cases are discharged from hospital much earlier at the present time in the full knowledge that a skilled nursing service is available for them in their own homes.

The present day district nurse, in collaboration with the general practitioner, undertakes far more in the nursing of her patients than did the nurse of some years ago, and it follows that the amount of time spent as in-patients in hospital is considerably reduced.

Co-operation with general practitioners and hospitals is satisfactory. For cases requiring nursing at home arrangements are made by the hospital or the general practitioner direct with the lady superintendent of the institution, and the instructions of the medical officers of the hospitals are transmitted to the nurses on the district. Similarly the general practitioner in charge of a case at home gives instructions to the district nurse regarding dressings and treatment, and one can say that there would seem to be little more that can be done to improve the service.

In 1956 4 of our nursing staff attended refresher courses for home nurses but, owing to recruitment of newly trained nurses, it was not thought necessary for these members of the staff to attend a course during 1957.

An interesting facet of home nursing is in relation to tuberculosis patients. The type of treatment has changed considerably and it is now considered necessary for the nurse to visit only two or three times a week in most cases instead of daily as in former years. This change in methods of treatment has resulted in approximately 1,000 less visits being paid to this class of patient than in the previous year.

The following table shows the number of cases attended and visits paid during the year by the home nursing staff, together with a classification of the types of cases attended:—

Cases attended and visits paid by Home Nursing Staff during 1957

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year (9)	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year (10)	Patients included in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year (11)
	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Diseases	Tuber- culosis	Maternal Compli- cations	Others	Totals			
Cases ...	896	70	—	134	11	88	1,199	674	9	407
Visits ...	36,442	1,553	—	6,003	118	1,836	45,952	28,706	75	39,839

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Arrangements are in force whereby infants can be vaccinated against Smallpox or immunised against diphtheria, at the Child Welfare Centres or by general practitioners. The medical officer attending the centres and the health visitors, both at the centres and during their visits to homes, remind parents continually of the need for this protection. In addition invitation leaflets are sent to parents by the Health Department pointing out the necessity for vaccination and immunisation and this, together with the national publicity campaign on diphtheria immunisation, has its effect upon a good proportion of parents. It can be said that no parent is unaware of the facilities offered, nor do they ignore immunisation in particular through lack of information.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is available at the Child Welfare Centres.

Facilities for boosting injections of diphtheria prophylactic are available at all child welfare centres and again at school, when immunisation or a boosting dose, as necessary, is offered to every child each year.

VACCINATION

During the year 718 Primary Vaccinations against Smallpox were carried out, 416 by doctors at the Child Welfare Centres and 302 by General Practitioners.

There were 52 successful re-vaccinations and 51 proved unsuccessful.

The following table shows the ages at vaccination and re-vaccination:—

	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—14 years	15 years and over	Total
Vaccinated ...	588	33	37	22	38	718
Re-vaccinated ...	—	1	1	4	46	52

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Arrangements are made at each of our Child Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries and School Clinics for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria. Visits are also paid to the schools for the immunisation of school children and for the administration of re-inforcing doses.

During 1957, 1,037 children under the age of five years and 1,294 between the ages of five and fifteen were immunised. In addition 1,158 children were given a re-inforcing dose.

Of the total, 522 were immunised and 39 given a re-inforcing dose by private medical practioners under the Authority's scheme, the remainder being immunised by the Local Health Authority's own medical officers.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Table showing number of children immunised each year,
by age groups

Year immunised	Under 5	5-14	Total	No. of children given re-inforcing injection	Cases of Diphtheria notified
1957	1037	1294	2331	1158	—
1956	746	1140	1886	774	—
1955	822	988	1810	678	1
1954	856	1027	1883	795	—
1953	858	899	1757	879	—
1952	906	898	1804	1273	—
1951	825	888	1713	1228	2
1950	570	956	1526	1413	2
1949	1171	1167	2338	2111	3
1948	1224	1238	2462	4314	3
1947	1089	725	1814	333	14
1946	957	1104	2061	598	18
1945	1144	1409	2553	* }	34
1944	1136	1610	2746		76
1943	1567	2488	4055		196
Total	14908	17831	32739	18154	349

* Prior to 1946, 2,600 children had received a re-inforcing injection.
Prior to 1943, 16,512 children were fully immunised.

Diphtheria Immunisation in relation to Child Population

Number of children at 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of Immunisation *at any time before that date* (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1943)

Age at 31.12.57 ... i.e., Born in year ...	Under 1 1957	1—4 1953—1956	5—9 1948—1952	10—14 1943—1947	Under 15 Total
Last course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1953—1957 ...	33	2,935	7,668	2,230	12,866
B. 1952 or earlier	—	—	897	7,936	8,833
C. Estimated mid- year child popula- tion	1,950	7,650	19,400		29,000
Immunity Index 100 A/C.	1.7	38.4	51.0		44.4

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

Vaccination against poliomyelitis was commenced in 1956, under arrangements decided upon by the Ministry of Health.

In the first instance vaccination was offered to children born between the years 1947 and 1954 inclusive, and 4,801 acceptances for vaccination were received from parents on behalf of their children. Vaccine was in short supply and it was not possible to commence actual vaccination until May, 1956. Despite supply difficulties, by the end of 1956 449 children had been given two injections and 16 one injection.

During 1957 further registrations were accepted, firstly for children born between the years 1947—1956, and later for children born between 1943—1957. A further 2,684 children were registered during the year, making a total registration of 7,485 children.

The following table shows the vaccinal position at the end of 1957:—

Vaccinated—2 injections—1956	449
Vaccinated—2 injections—1957	3,483
Vaccinated—1 injection —1957	1,694
Total	5,626
Remaining unvaccinated at 31st December, 1957	1,859
Total Registration, 1956/57	7,485

Active registration has proceeded since 1st January, 1958, but irregular supplies of vaccine have been received, making administration of the scheme extremely difficult. All members of the staff have, however, carried out vaccination work with the utmost vigour whenever supplies have been available, and arrangements are well forward at the time of writing.

Towards the end of the year provision was made for the vaccination of expectant mothers, general practitioners and their families, and ambulance staff and their families, although owing to a shortage of supplies of vaccine it was not possible to carry out such vaccinations before the end of 1957.

Mainly, vaccinations have been carried out at special vaccinating sessions at our school clinics, but with the inclusion of the older groups of children, immunisation is now being carried out in large numbers in the schools, and this arrangement is working very well. Our thanks are due for the excellent co-operation which we have received from all concerned, especially the head teachers of the schools and members of the school health staff.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

There has been a further increase in the number of cases carried by ambulance during the year, 31,022 patients being conveyed as against 29,796 in 1956. The mileage run during the year has decreased to 142,353, as against 150,720 in 1956. The following summary shews the work done during the year:—

Calls	...	...	...	24,746
Journeys	...	...	...	12,332
Cases	...	...	...	31,022
Mileage	...	...	...	142,353

The fleet at the end of 1957 consisted of 7 ambulances and 6 sitting case ambulances. One ambulance was disposed of during the year and delivery was taken of a new type ambulance, with diesel engine, with provision for the installation of radio, and this vehicle has proved very satisfactory in use and most economical, so much so that the Health Committee gave a repeat order for a similar vehicle which will come into use early in 1958.

The Health Committee has approved the installation of radio in most of their vehicles and it is expected this service will come into operation early in 1958. It is hoped that considerable economies in mileage will result and the prompt availability of a vehicle in any emergency should be assured.

The ambulance staff at the end of the year consisted of 1 Ambulance Supervisor, 1 Assistant Supervisor, and 25 Ambulance Drivers, 4 of whom are women. All members of the staff have successfully passed the St. John examination and refresher courses are arranged as necessary. Arrangements are in hand for the newcomers to attend the first available course of lectures for the St. John Certificate.

The Ambulance staff are also now responsible for the conveyance of bodies to the mortuary at the request of the Borough Coroner. Although this work is not normally that of an ambulance service, the Health Committee and the staff were glad to co-operate in view of the difficulty experienced in obtaining offers from undertakers to carry out the work.

The following table shows the work carried out during the year:—

CALLS		JOURNEYS										CASES						MILEAGE				
Month		Illness		Emergency		Other		Abortive Service and		Midwives, Home Nurses, Analgesia Apparatus etc.		Illness			Emergency			Other			AMB.	S.C.A.
		AMB.	S.C.A.	AMB.	S.C.A.	AMB.	S.C.A.	AMB.	S.C.A.	AMB.	S.C.A.	AMBULANCE		S.C.A.		AMBULANCE		S.C.A.				
												Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases			
Jan.	2150	232	607	90	—	59	—	24	3	12	35	649	402	1600	90	—	—	59	—	—	4188	7208
Feb.	2248	222	645	64	—	41	—	19	—	21	31	592	495	1252	64	—	—	41	—	—	4034	6917
March	2139	270	459	57	—	29	—	8	7	13	28	686	573	1352	57	—	—	29	—	—	4539	8151
April	2110	423	461	70	—	49	—	17	5	38	13	804	590	1162	76	—	—	49	—	—	5690	7131
May	2109	309	603	86	—	78	—	26	7	18	36	639	90	1917	88	3	—	78	—	—	5311	8280
June	1962	192	595	104	5	72	—	19	—	29	10	621	494	1176	104	—	5	72	—	—	4710	6944
July	2054	248	513	91	—	85	—	21	5	31	16	661	376	1408	91	—	—	85	—	—	5500	6962
Aug.	1584	347	445	72	2	74	—	20	5	18	23	789	495	1048	72	—	2	74	—	—	4874	6957
Sept.	1819	303	498	59	—	92	—	25	7	9	26	637	525	1120	62	—	—	92	—	—	4467	6683
Oct.	1995	307	481	55	—	98	—	20	8	14	17	649	476	1131	55	—	—	98	—	—	4760	6323
Nov.	2199	304	524	69	—	64	—	20	7	10	24	665	680	1192	72	—	—	64	—	—	5280	6822
Dec.	2377	294	552	48	—	92	—	23	—	14	11	621	711	1018	52	—	—	92	—	—	4454	6168
Total	24746	3451	6383	865	7	833	—	242	54	227	270	8013	5907	15376	883	3	7	833	—	—	57807	84546

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Sick-room Appliances Service

As part of our care and after-care services the Council initiated a scheme for sick-room appliances to be made available, upon a certificate of a hospital, family doctor, district nurse or health visitor. Sick-room appliances are issued on loan, free of cost, and the service has proved to be most beneficial.

The appliances are housed at the Ambulance Station, the Ambulance Supervisor being responsible for the issue and return of all articles and for the care and maintenance of all mechanical appliances. The Ambulance Station is a very suitable place for the issue of such articles, as a twenty-four hour service is ensured.

During the year the following issues were made:—

Rubber Sheets ...	182	Urinals ...	101
Back Rests ...	243	Sputum Cups ...	4
Feeding Cups ...	15	Air Rings ...	166
Crutches ...	8 prs.	Wheel Chairs ...	65
Walking Sticks ...	7	Air Beds ...	4
Bed Cradles ...	34	Bedpans ...	279
Bed Tables ...	2	Spinal Carriages ...	1
Commodes ...	11	Bronchial Fumigator	1

A small deposit is required for each article lent, and this is refunded when the article is returned to the depot. In those cases where the patient is unable to arrange for the collection of the article, very endeavour is made to see that the delivery is made by the department's transport facilities.

The Sick-Room Appliances Service is one of our most appreciated services. The availability, without charge, of these necessary articles for the sick room helps to alleviate the demand on hospital beds by making conditions more acceptable in the nursing of the patient at home. The service has been extended in each year of its operation and, from the large number of expressions of gratitude we receive from patients, we are assured of the genuine need of the service.

MILK ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Health Committee, implementing their proposals for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients, instituted a scheme, in conjunction with the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee, for the supply of milk to tuberculous patients. Broadly the scheme provides

for the free issue of one pint of milk per day where the total weekly income does not exceed an amount specified in the Council's scale. The scale was modelled upon that prepared by the Association of Municipal Corporations and the arrangements so far appear to be reasonably adequate.

During the year 15 patients, for varying periods, have been supplied with one pint of milk per day, free of charge. The total amount of milk supplied during the year was 378 gallons.

A grant of free milk is issued by the department upon the certificate of the Chest Physician. Close liaison is maintained between the Chest Physician who, of course, is now an officer of the Regional Hospital Board, and this department. The officers of the Chest Clinic and of this department confer regularly upon the needs of tuberculous patients. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor has an office at the Chest Clinic and works with the Chest Physician. Contact is thereby maintained between the tuberculous patient and other activities of the Health Department.

Milk is supplied through the patient's own Registered Milk Retailer so that the patient is not put to any trouble to obtain milk from a special source, a benefit appreciated by the patients.

TUBERCULOSIS AFTER-CARE

The Tuberculosis After-Care Committee is responsible, on behalf of the Council, for after-care for tuberculous patients. Extra assistance for the tuberculous patient in the form of additional food, change of air, clothing, better home conditions, extra beds and bedding, and more suitable occupation are the Committee's main activities. The Committee has functioned for many years and has been of great help to a large number of patients. Mainly the funds are derived from voluntary sources, but the Council also makes a monetary grant to assist the Committee in its work.

The Committee makes arrangements for patients to be sent to convalescent homes, for the payment of railway fares in necessitous cases, for practical help to patients and a very considerable sum is distributed as Christmas gifts to all patients on the books. The Committee is well served by its honorary officers who have a long tradition of service behind them. The Honorary Secretary of the Committee is Miss K. Cotterell. There is a helpful liaison between the voluntary body and the Health Department and this ensures active co-operation at all times.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT

Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides for the prevention of illness, care and after-care. Under these provisions the local authority may make arrangements to provide convalescent treatment for persons certified to require such treatment either by hospitals or by their medical practitioner. The convalescent treatment so provided shall not be given to persons needing medical care.

During the year 43 children received convalescent treatment, 11 for four weeks and 32 for three weeks at the Ormerod Convalescent Home, St. Annes-on-Sea, and 1 adult stayed for two weeks at a convalescent home at Wedmore, Somerset.

The children's part of the scheme is run on similar lines to that operated by the Walsall Poor Children's Country Holiday Society and co-ordination of the two schemes is well established.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Council has approved an establishment of 44 full-time domestic helps. For many years we have experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining the right type of person for employment in this service owing, principally, to the demand for female labour in industry. At the time of writing the position is considerably easier and we are able to recruit some additional helps, although the staffing position is still unsatisfactory.

The care of the aged sick at home is still a great problem and every endeavour is made to arrange that at least intermittent help is given to those most in need. This help, with that provided by the National Assistance Board and the Home Help Scheme of the Walsall Civic Guild of Help offers considerable assistance to the aged, but even so, the help so provided merely touches the fringe of what is a very large and increasing problem.

Owing to the considerable demand for helps it has been necessary to reduce the amount of time given to certain types of cases. Generally, in the case of elderly persons, it has been found practicable to utilise the services of a help at the homes of three aged persons during one week and thereby many more cases are covered than formerly. Normally the requirements of aged persons are small but extremely necessary, and it has been found in practice that this arrangement is generally sufficient for their needs. The service given is invariably much appreciated by the old folk and, as the number of helps employed increases, so more cases will be covered. The fact that someone is in the home to give a helping hand and to sort out their difficulties, small though they may appear to be, is the type of service which is most required.

The following are the statistics for the Domestic Help Service during the year:—

No. of Helps employed at 31st December, 1957 ...	52
(30 Full-time, 22 Part-time)	
No. of confinement cases at which help was supplied	101
No. of tuberculosis cases at which help was supplied	4
No. of chronic sick (including aged and infirm) cases at which help was supplied	226
No. of other cases at which help was supplied ...	23
Total hours worked at confinement cases	8,014
Total hours worked at tuberculosis cases	2,183
Total hours worked at other cases	67,796

BLIND PERSONS

The care of blind persons is a function of the Welfare Committee in Walsall, and they work in close conjunction with the Walsall, Wednesbury and District Society for the Blind. There is a modern institution and workshops for the blind in the town and the facilities and care provided are of the best.

At the end of 1957 there were 294 Walsall residents on the register for the blind and 29 on the register for the partially sighted.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	2
(ii) Number of cases in which:—	
(a) Vision lost	—
(b) Vision impaired	—
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year	—

TUBERCULOSIS

The following report has been supplied by Dr. J. N. Macartney, a Chest Physician of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, who is in charge of the Walsall Chest Clinic which deals with cases of tuberculosis. Dr. Macartney is also responsible to the Walsall Council in all matters relating to environmental conditions of tuberculosis cases in the borough. The report deals with this aspect of his work only:—

“The National trend in tuberculosis showing a gradual decline in deaths from the disease, is reflected in the Walsall figures for the year 1957. The local death rate is the lowest on record and the following figures give the death rate per 1,000 population with comparative figures for England and Wales:—

WALSALL		1956		1957
Respiratory tuberculosis ...	...	0.236	...	0.139
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	0.009	...	0.017
ENGLAND AND WALES				
Respiratory tuberculosis ...	...	0.109	...	0.095
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	0.012	...	0.012

It is clear, however, that optimism must be tempered with caution, as the tuberculosis problem is still a formidable one. For example, the number of new cases in Walsall discovered during the year under review, average two per week, and these new patients, who usually require approximately six months stay in Hospital, cannot be expected to appreciate exaggerated public statements to the effect that tuberculosis is a disease of the past. The number of new cases diagnosed in the year is only one less than in 1956 and many of these cases were infectious when first discovered.

The present treatment of the disease lies essentially in the use of certain drugs and it is a disturbing feature to find that approximately 5 per cent. of all cases are infected with a T.B. germ which is resistant to one or all of these drugs. Such cases present special difficulty in their treatment and are a considerable public health hazard.

Walsall, like many industrial areas in the Midlands, has experienced a considerable influx of coloured workers. Very often, their living conditions are unsatisfactory and overcrowding is frequent. 14 per cent. of the total T.B. male admissions to Hospital during the year were in this category. This trend has been noted in other industrial areas and it seems possible that many of these cases have been suffering from the disease when they first entered the United Kingdom. The problem is one that can only be solved at National level and a chest X-ray examination on their first arrival would be of great help.

The male death rate from tuberculosis has declined only slightly in the past year and it would be true to say that if the male rate matched the female, then deaths from tuberculosis would be almost eliminated. Men over the age of 45 years are particularly vulnerable to tuberculosis and the explanation probably lies in the fact that heavy smoking, chronic bronchitis and pneumoconiosis are all important contributory factors in this age group. This adverse influence seems likely to persist for many years to come until atmospheric pollution is eliminated. In this connection, the Clean Air Act, which will shortly come into operation offers hope for the future and may have a greater influence on all forms of respiratory illness than any other measure."

MENTAL HEALTH

The administration of the Mental Health Service is carried out by the Health Committee, a special sub-committee having been formed to deal with cases of mental defectiveness, the Health Committee itself being responsible for the supervision of a mental illness service.

The following is a list of the staff employed in this service:—

GENERAL SUPERVISION - - -	Medical Officer of Health.
APPROVED MEDICAL OFFICER -	Deputy Medical Officer of
HANDICAPPED PUPILS AND SCHOOL	Health.
HEALTH SERVICE REGULATIONS,	
1945	

DULY AUTHORISED OFFICER - -	1 male.
	1 part-time deputy.

MENTAL WELFARE OFFICERS - -	1 female.
	1 assistant.

SUPERVISOR, OCCUPATION CENTRE -	1 female.
	2 assistants.

There is close co-operation with the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the Hospital Management Committee of St. Margaret's Hospital, and Mental Deficiency Hospital, and the advice and assistance of the officers of the Board and the Committee are freely available.

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer and her assistant undertake the ascertainment of mental defectives and their supervision when placed under Statutory Supervision. In addition, arrangements have been made with the St. Margaret's Hospital Management Committee for the supervision of Walsall patients placed on licence in Walsall or in the vicinity. The periodic reports on certified patients required by the Visiting Justices are also prepared, after visitation, by these Officers.

Both Mental Welfare Officers are Petitioning Officers for the purpose of certification under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer has spoken at a number of meetings during the year of the work of a Mental Welfare Officer, thus giving the general public a more informed mind on the problems of mental deficiency.

The after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals is carried out by the health visiting staff, a number of health visitors having attended a special course on such care.

The Walsall Mental Welfare Voluntary Association undertakes the supervision of a large number of voluntary patients who do not come within the purview of the statutory committee. The Mental Welfare Officer is the Secretary of the Association so that effective co-ordination in this matter is obtained.

Mental Illness

The number of cases suffering from mental illness, seeking voluntary admission to mental hospitals, has been maintained during the present year.

The following table shews the number of cases dealt with in 1957 under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, or otherwise, by the Duly Authorised Officers:—

No. of Health Service certified patients removed to St. Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood	...	...	...	76
No. of Health Service voluntary patients admitted to St. Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood	...	...	...	236
No. of Health Service cases, alleged to be of unsound mind, investigated	...	...	...	30
No. of patients referred for after-care	...	...	...	197
No. of after-care visits paid	...	...	...	808
No. of miscellaneous visits made by the Duly Authorised Officers	...	...	...	338

The arrangement whereby the after-care visiting of patients discharged from mental hospitals is carried out by the Health Visiting staff has been continued, and the system adopted is working very satisfactorily. In addition to after-care visiting various other enquiries regarding patients have been dealt with.

The Health Visitors are always prepared to help in solving the many problems of patients who have been discharged from mental hospitals, particularly the patient who has lost his confidence, and is out of touch with social life. Here the Health Visitor, with care and tact, can be very successful by bringing the patient into a different frame of mind. There is, of course, the patient who is most unco-operative and here extra care is needed to establish confidence and understanding between patient and visitor, and although rapid progress is not always made in getting the patient fully established, the patient often looks on the brighter side of life and endeavours to regain his place in the community.

Persuading patients to return to hospital for further treatment in some cases needs very careful approach and the amount of time spent by the Health Visitor, and in some cases by the Duly Authorised Officers, can be considerable. If, however, the patient can be convinced that he has someone upon whom he can rely when in need of help or advice, the time spent can be considered to be well worth while, and we must continue to offer our help even if success is not always achieved.

Mental Deficiency

The work of ascertaining mental defectives under the Mental Deficiency Acts is very complete in Walsall. The Head Teachers of schools are responsible for reporting to the School Medical Officer any child whom they feel is retarded. The School Medical Officer then arranges for mental examination at the earliest possible date. As stated above these children are then cared for either by admittance to a mental deficiency hospital, or an occupation centre. A large number of cases is placed under voluntary supervision, and those placed under guardianship are under the supervision of the Guardianship Officer, who is also the Assistant Mental Welfare Officer.

Although an occupation centre has been provided no separate arrangements have been made for the provision of an industrial centre for adults. Home tuition is arranged where possible for children, but no group training has been instituted.

A system of temporary care in hospitals, without certification, has operated successfully for a number of years, thus enabling the relatives of patients who live at home to have some respite.

Patients on Licence, etc.

The Council has an arrangement with St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr Park, for the Council's mental Welfare Officers to be responsible for reports on home conditions for leave of absence and for the supervision of patients on licence from hospital. These Officers also report on the home conditions of patients expected to be allowed on licence for trial and for discharge from Order. In addition, reports are made to the Visitors for the County of Stafford, and periodic reports on patients on licence to the Medical Superintendent at St. Margaret's Hospital.

The Mental Welfare Officers continue to find employment for patients who are considered suitable for licence and for their supervision afterwards.

Mental Welfare Association

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer is Secretary of the Mental Welfare Association and this officer and the Assistant Mental Welfare Officer are responsible for the work undertaken by the Association. There is a large number of voluntary patients on the register and the Association carries out useful work in supervising cases which do not come within the purview of the Statutory Committee.

Occupation Centre

An Occupation Centre is provided by the Council and is conducted in church school premises rented for the purpose. The centre is for those children who cannot be educated within the normal educational system, the emphasis being on training.

The Junior children attend the occupation centre daily from 9.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m., the Senior Girls' Class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the Senior Boys' Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Senior Girls and Boys have 1s. a week pocket money, provided their attendance at classes is good.

Rug making, stool seating, embroidery, elementary handicraft, percussion band, eurythmics, country dancing, puppetry, games and speech training form part of the curriculum of this flourishing centre. A number of small children were admitted during the year and the kindergarten group is still growing in size.

On the 31st December there were 34 junior and 26 senior defectives in attendance.

Plans are in operation for a new occupation centre to cater for 100 persons and it is hoped that the new centre, if approval is given, will be ready in 1960 or 1961.

General

More than usual attention has been paid to mental illness and defectiveness in Walsall for very many years. Walsall originally provided a colony for mental defectives, a residential special school for educationally subnormal pupils and an occupation centre. The work of the ascertainment of mental defectives is as effective as possible and the co-operation between the various committees of the Council concerned with children is very complete.

An increasing number of patients is being discharged from Order under the Mental Deficiency Acts by the Board of Control. The results of this new policy are awaited with some anxiety. It remains to be seen how these patients, many of whom have been sheltered in Hospital for many years, will fare when faced with the stresses of everyday life.

Some of the nurses taking the course for health visitors in Birmingham have received instruction from the staff of the Mental Welfare Department and Occupation Centre during the year, and this practical instruction is, we are sure, of benefit to them as a part of their curriculum.

The following tables show in detail persons dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts:—

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913—1938

49

1. Particulars of cases reported during 1957		Under age 16		Age 16 and over	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with." Action taken on reports by—	(1) Local Education Authorities on children				
	(i) While at school or liable to attend school	8	4	—	—
	(ii) On leaving special schools	—	—	2	1
	(iii) On leaving ordinary schools	5	8	—	—
	(2) Police or by Courts	—	—	1	1
	(3) Other sources	—	1	—	3
	Total of 1 (a)	13	13	3	5
	(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives, but were not regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground	—	—	—	—
	(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and thus excluded from (a) or (b)	—	—	—	—
	(d) Cases reported in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1957, and thus excluded from (a) or (b)	—	—	1	—
Total of 1 (a) — (d)		13	13	4	5

2. Disposal of cases reported during 1957

(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number

(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision
(ii) Placed under Guardianship
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals

Total of 2 (a)

(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number

(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision
(ii) Action unnecessary

Total of 2 (b)

(c) Cases reported at 1 (a) or (b) who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged

Total of 2 (a) — (c)

Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
M.	F.	M.	F.
13	13	2	2
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
—	—	1	3
13	13	3	5
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
13	13	3	5

3. Number of Mental Defectives for whom care was arranged by the Local Health Authority under Circular 5/52 during 1957

Admitted to:—

(a) National Health Service hospitals	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Elsewhere	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...				

Under age 16		Aged 16 or over	
M.	F.	M.	F.
3	4	1	7
—	—	—	—
3	4	1	7

4. Total cases on Authority's Registers at 31.12.57

(i) Under Statutory Supervision	...	...	...	...	...
(ii) Under Guardianship	...	...	...	...	...
(iii) In 'Places of Safety'	...	...	...	...	...
(iv) In Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...
Total 4 (i — iv)	...	...	...	...	...

34	36	89	101
—	—	1	2
—	—	—	—
15	9	129	166
49	45	219	269
—	—	283	203
49	45	502	472

5. Number of defectives under Guardianship on 31.12.57, who were dealt with under the provisions of Sec. 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (included in 4 (ii))

...
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

—	—	—	—
---	---	---	---

6. Classification of defectives in the Community on 31.12.57 (according to need at that date)		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Cases included in 4 (i)–(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority:—					
(1) In urgent need of hospital care:—					
(i) "Cot and chair," cases ...	...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases ...	...	1	—	—	—
(iii) Medium grade cases ...	...	—	—	3	—
(iv) High grade cases ...	...	—	—	—	1
Total urgent cases ...	...	1	—	3	1
(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care:—					
(i) "Cot and chair," cases ...	...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases ...	...	3	—	—	—
(iii) Medium grade cases ...	...	—	—	—	—
(iv) High grade cases ...	...	—	—	—	—
Total non-urgent cases ...	...	3	—	—	—
Total ...	...	4	—	3	1

6. (continued)

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(b) Of the cases included in items 4 (i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for:—				
(i) Occupation centre	24	12	4	4
(ii) Industrial centre	—	1	10	16
(iii) Home training	—	—	—	—
Total	24	13	14	20
(c) Of the cases included in item 6 (b) number receiving training on 31.12.57:—				
(i) In occupation centre	17	9	4	4
(ii) In industrial centre	—	1	9	16
(iii) From a home teacher—in groups	—	—	—	—
(iv) From a home teacher at home (not in groups)	—	—	—	—
Total	17	10	13	20

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Chief Public Health Inspector
ON THE
Work of the Public Health Inspectors
for the year ended 31st December, 1957

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY
BOROUGH OF WALSALL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my annual report for 1957 on the work of the Public Health Inspectors of the Borough.

This is the third year in succession that I have had to report on continuing staff shortages and extreme pressure of duties. It is not generally realised what strain is placed on the remaining members of the staff in attempting to carry out the responsibilities placed on the department. Although the report has again been prepared in an abridged form, it does, however, contain sufficient information to indicate the amount and scope of the work undertaken by the public health inspectors.

Of necessity the main concentration of duties during the year has been on slum clearance, meat and foods inspection, and atmospheric pollution, and it is again regretted that more time has not been able to be given to the important duties of the department in connection with food hygiene.

Additional responsibilities that accrued to the department during the year included the Rent Act, 1957, and work under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950.

In view of the fact that the present establishment of inspectors cannot be filled, there is no point at the moment in pursuing a review of the establishment.

Limited attention has again been given to health educational activities, and members of the staff have given lectures to various organisations on the work of the department. Most of these lectures are undertaken in the evening.

I again pay tribute to the continued support and co-operation of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, and my thanks are also due to chief officers and heads of departments for their help and co-operation.

To the members of my staff I tender sincere thanks. I wish to specially mention the help and assistance I have received from Mr. E. Bayley, my Deputy, and the specialist inspectors, Messrs. Woodward, Kelley, Penn and Monks in the preparation of this report.

Yours obediently,

C. A. STANSBURY,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

PART 1—STAFF

During the year there have been the following changes in the staff of this section of the department.

Miss Valerie Boot was appointed Junior Clerk on 21st January, 1957.

Mr. Yau Tat Yuen, appointed Meat Inspector on 1st February, 1957, left in August, 1957 to take up a post with the City of Birmingham Veterinary Department.

Mr. R. C. Drake, Public Health Inspector, resigned on the 23rd July, 1957 to take up a similar appointment with Willenhall U.D.C.

Mr. Peter Warren Tibbetts was appointed Pupil Public Health Inspector on 23rd September, 1957.

Mr. G. V. R. Lee was appointed Public Health Inspector on 28th November, 1957 on a temporary part-time basis.

PART 2—HOUSING

This section of the report deals with aspects of housing work carried out under the Public Health Acts, Housing Acts and Walsall Corporation Acts, 1930 and 1954.

Repairs to Houses

Complaints received by the department about the unsatisfactory condition of dwellinghouses numbered 2,203 compared with 2,534 during 1956. Works of repair carried out to houses in consequence of departmental action have again been of a basic character designed to alleviate conditions prejudicial to health rather than to raise the standard of housing accommodation. The total number of visits made to premises during the year was 19,373 compared with 16,725 during the preceding year.

Because of staff shortages it has been impracticable to serve notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 for the comprehensive repair of dwellinghouses. Action taken under the Public Health Acts and Walsall Corporation Act has, however, resulted in essential general repairs being carried out to 379 houses and in repair works in connection with water closets, drains and the abatement of other nuisances being carried out to a further 915 houses. Some 1,294 dwellinghouses have thus benefitted by the carrying out of miscellaneous repair works during the year. It was not necessary to institute legal proceedings to secure the abatement of nuisances.

The powers contained in the Walsall Corporation Act for the unstopping of private drains and for the carrying out of emergency repairs to houses have again proved invaluable. Under Section 44 of the Act the department is able, after 48 hours written notice to the owner, to unstop any obstructed drain, water closet, soil pipe or private sewer and to charge the owner with the cost of the work. Section 50 of the Act enables the department to serve a special notice requiring the owner to remedy serious defects; if the necessary repairs have not been carried out within 9 days the department has power to do the work in default without resort to Court action and to recover from the owner the cost of so doing.

Details of action taken under the Walsall Corporation Act are set out in the table below:—

	No. of notices served		Work done by owners		Work done in default
Section 44 (power to remedy stopped up drains, etc.) ...	69	...	50	...	19
Section 50 (repair of defective houses)	155	...	137	...	18
	<hr/> 224 <hr/>	...	<hr/> 187 <hr/>	...	<hr/> 37 <hr/>

Drains which serve more than one house are normally regarded as public sewers for the purposes of Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936. When these drains become obstructed or defective the department, if the matter is urgent, authorises the Public Works Department to do the work immediately. The owner is notified of the action taken and the cost is recovered from him in the normal way. During the past year 149 of these combined drains, serving some 556 houses and other premises, were cleared or repaired by the Public Works Department staff on instructions from this department and the cost—a total of £256 4s. 5d.—was charged to the owners.

Rent Act Procedure

During the year five applications for certificates of disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 were received. Of these applications two were subsequently withdrawn by tenants, one was refused and two were issued. In one case the owner subsequently applied for the certificate to be cancelled and this was done because the necessary repairs had been completed. Later in the year the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was replaced by the Rent Act, 1957.

The Rent Act, 1957 enables landlords to increase the rent of all controlled houses to pre-determined limits and decontrols all houses which on 7th November, 1956 had a rateable value in excess of £30 per annum.

The Act also makes fundamental changes in the relationship which had previously existed between the landlord and tenant and the local authority with regard to the issue and enforcement of certificates of disrepair. Unlike the earlier Rent Act, which left to the discretion of the Public Health Inspector the type of defect to be included on a certificate of disrepair, the new Rent Act places on the tenant the onus of specifying defects. It also lays down a complicated procedure which has to be followed before a certificate of disrepair can be issued. The Act lays emphasis on negotiation between landlord and tenant and a certificate of disrepair may only be issued when attempts to secure an appropriate undertaking have failed. The Act has involved this department in a great deal of additional clerical work and work of an advisory character. Some idea of the work involved may be deduced from the summary set out below which relates to activity between 6th July, 1957 and 31st December, 1957.

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

1. Number of applications for certificates	...	...	147
2. Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	Nil
3. Number of decisions to issue certificates—			
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	44
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	46
4. Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	31
5. Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	Nil
6. Number of Certificates issued	...	...	42

Part II—Applications for cancellation of certificates

7. Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	19
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	4
9. Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	...	...	2
10. Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	17

This summary is in the form prescribed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. In addition to dealing with the documents referred to in this summary the department during the same period sold to tenants 1596 Forms "G" and also sold lesser numbers of other forms.

The aims of the Act are stated to be to enable rented houses and flats to be put and kept in repair, to increase the total stock of rented accommodation, to secure better use of existing housing accommodation and to begin to restore a free market in rented housing.

Slum Clearance

Eleven new clearance areas, involving a total of 336 houses, were represented during the year and were resolved into the following four Orders:—

1. The Walsall (Orlando Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957	...	...	...	...	123 houses
2. The Walsall (Fieldgate) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957	...	...	...	...	11 houses
3. The Walsall (Leamore) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1958	...	...	...	...	143 houses
4. The Walsall (Rollingmill Street) Clearance Order, 1957	...	...	...	...	59 houses

The following Orders were confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the dates shown. Public Local Inquiries were held into all Orders except the Walsall (Fieldgate) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957.

1. The Walsall (Adams Street) Clearance Order, 1956—10.4.57	...	...	...	...	33 houses
2. The Walsall (Blue Lane West) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956—21.5.57 (with modification)	...	...	...	...	85 houses
3. The Walsall (Pleck Road) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1956—6.6.57 (with modification)	...	...	...	...	34 houses
4. The Walsall (Orlando Street) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957—8.8.57 (with modification)	...	...	...	...	123 houses
5. The Walsall (Fieldgate) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1957—28.11.57	...	...	...	...	11 houses
6. The Walsall (Rollingmill Street) Clearance Order, 1957—17.12.57	...	...	...	...	59 houses

By action under sections of the Housing Act relating to demolition, closing and clearance areas, and by voluntary action, 494 houses were condemned. Families were rehoused from 184 houses and 189 houses were demolished. At 31st December, 1957 there were 348 condemned houses still occupied.

Progress in the Clearance of Unfit Properties during 1957

Condemned houses still in occupation at 1st January, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	59
Houses for which Demolition or Closing Orders were made or Undertakings not to use accepted	...	...	...	...	...	117
Houses included in confirmed Compulsory Purchase Orders and Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	...	344
Houses included in Clearance Areas but excluded from Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders	...	...	...	...	...	9

Houses for which owners gave voluntary undertakings not to relet when present tenants rehoused	24
Condemned houses vacated	184
Houses void at time of representation	21
Condemned houses demolished	189
Condemned houses still occupied on 31st December, 1957	348

Progress under Housing Acts, 1930—1957 at 31st December, 1957

Houses represented as unfit	4,492
Houses demolished or closed	3,722
Approximate number of persons displaced	15,551

Provision of New Houses

During 1957 new houses were provided as follows:—

(a) By Walsall Corporation	729
(b) By private persons—	
(i) Permanent houses	125
(ii) New dwellings from conversions of existing properties	12

Improvement Grants

Enquiries from owners of older types of property about the improvement grant provisions of the Housing Acts continued to be received steadily throughout the year and 125 cases were investigated. The Health Committee considered 88 applications for grants under the scheme and approved 87 of these applications, at a total cost of £11,099.

Tent, Vans, Sheds and similar structures

The unauthorised parking of caravans and tents on land within the borough continued intermittently throughout the year. The sites most frequently affected were in Willenhall Lane, Gipsy Lane, Bloxwich Lane, Victory Lane and Slacky Lane; a site in Whateley Road was also occasionally used. The majority of the sites belong to the Corporation but some are privately owned.

As has been previously explained, the van dwellers who resort to these sites are in the main not gypsies in the accepted sense of the word but are people who come from widely scattered parts of the country and whose main means of livelihood appears to be the salvage and sale of scrap materials. Most of these people prefer to lead a nomadic life and show little inclination to accept the responsibilities of urban living.

Action against the van dwellers has taken three main forms: (i) eviction of the van dwellers by the owners of the land; (ii) the making of access to land more difficult by ridging and ditching and

the provision of fencing; (iii) prosecution of van dwellers who fail to remove their vans after having been given informal notice of the provisions of the Walsall Corporation Act, 1930.

In March, 1957 one of the private land owners evicted van dwellers from his land and took steps to prevent future van dwellers from gaining access. In July of the same year the Public Works Department removed van dwellers from Corporation owned sites in Willenhall Lane, Gipsy Lane, Bloxwich Lane and Slacky Lane and where practicable sought to prevent them from gaining access by ridging and ditching the boundaries of the site adjoining the roadway. Removal from Corporation owned land was carried out by the Public Works Department staff with the assistance of the Borough Police Force.

It has been possible to achieve reasonable control of the problem because of the effective co-operation of the Public Works Department with this Department, and because of the assistance given by the Town Clerk, Borough Surveyor and Chief Constable. There has also been effective liaison between the Housing, Public Works and Health Committee.

Public Health Inspectors have paid many visits to sites occupied by caravans and during the year have served well over 100 informal notices drawing attention to the provisions of Section 106 of the Walsall Corporation Act, 1930. For several weeks during the year one Inspector had to devote practically the whole of his working day to the visiting of caravan sites and to the enforcement of the provisions of the Corporation Act. In connection with the control of tents and vans Public Health Inspectors and the Assistant Solicitor have made ten appearances in Court and a summary of the prosecutions is set out in Part 8 of the report on page 82.

PART 3—FOOD

Food administration forms an increasingly important part of the Public Health Inspector's duties. For convenience of reference this aspect of the work is reported on under the following headings:—

- (a) Slaughtering facilities;
- (b) Inspection of Meat;
- (c) Diseases of Animals Act administration;
- (d) Unwholesome Food condemned;
- (e) Foods of unsatisfactory quality;
- (f) Milk;
- (g) Ice Cream;
- (h) Food Hygiene;
- (i) Sampling—Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

(a) SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES

The slaughtering of animals at privately owned premises in Shortacre Street continued during the year. Although the Shortacre Street premises are generally referred to as "the slaughterhouse" they consist in fact of two licensed slaughterhouses situated on opposite sides of the street.

(b) INSPECTION OF MEAT**General Review**

During the year under review the carcasses and offals of 83,658 animals were inspected compared with 92,219 during 1956. There has thus been a decrease of approximately 9 per cent. in the total number of animals slaughtered and inspected. The decrease is distributed fairly evenly among all classes of animals although the greatest proportionate reduction has been in the number of calves killed.

Further details of the number of animals killed and of carcasses inspected are given at the commencement of Table 3 on page 63.

Meat inspection at the slaughterhouse was carried out on a full-time basis by Mr. A. D. Kelley, Mr. J. W. Fairless, Mr. D. C. Hough and for part of the year by Mr. Yau Tat Yuen. Other qualified inspectors on the staff have from time to time assisted in meat inspection especially during holiday periods or in cases of emergency or illness.

In spite of staff shortages the meat of all animals slaughtered in Walsall is inspected at the time of slaughter; such a standard of inspection is essential in order to provide adequate public health safeguards. The total weight of diseased meat and offal condemned during 1957 was approximately 12 per cent. less than that condemned during 1956, the condemnations for 1957 totalling some 112 tons.

Tables 2 and 3 on pages 62 and 63 give some indication of the incidence of different diseases found in animals on post mortem examination but a full analysis of these diseases has again been omitted for reasons of economy.

Meat condemned because of Bruising

The amount of meat condemned during the year because of bruising was 10,971 lbs. compared with 14,637 lbs. in 1956 and 11,317 lbs. in 1955.

Congenital Tuberculosis in Calves

Fifteen cases of congenital tuberculosis in calves were recorded in 1957 compared with nineteen during 1956. When available, information with regard to these cases was forward to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Cysticercus Bovis

Cysticercus Bovis is a parasitic disease of cattle and may give rise to a tapeworm infestation in man. During 1957 evidence of cysticercus bovis was found in the organs or carcase meat of 169 bovine animals compared with 172 in 1956. All diseased meat and offals were condemned and the apparently healthy offals and carcasses were refrigerated for 14 days so as to render them safe for human consumption. Table 1 gives fuller details of the incidence of this disease.

TABLE 1
Cysticercus Bovis in Cattle, 1957

Animals	Masseter muscle of head	Tongue	Hearts		Skirts	Carcase muscle	
			Muscle	Surface		Localised	Generalised
Bullocks ..	56	3	32	9	6	—	1
Heifers ..	31	2	15	4	2	—	1
Cows ..	4	—	3	—	—	—	—
Bulls ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	91	5	50	13	8	—	2

Swine Fever

During the past year 1,698 pigs which had been in contact with known cases of swine fever were received at the slaughterhouse for immediate slaughter; this figure is about 7 per cent. of the total number of pigs killed at the slaughterhouse. On post-mortem examination 14 of the carcasses showed signs of swine fever and were incinerated under supervision in accordance with the requirements of the Diseases of Animals Acts. In addition 3 pigs were slaughtered on infected premises because of swine fever; these carcasses were subsequently condemned and destroyed. The presence in the slaughterhouse of pigs affected with swine fever (or of animals affected with any notifiable disease) complicates the task of meat inspection.

Diseased Meat and Offals

During the year the following quantities of meat and offals were found to be diseased, unsound and unfit for human consumption: —

TABLE 2

ALL DISEASES

EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Carcase Meat	...	...	...	...	27	8	3	3
Offals	...	...	...	...	57	16	3	18

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Carcase Meat	...	...	...	...	13	7	2	12
Offals	...	...	...	...	14	4	3	0

					112	18	0	5
--	--	--	--	--	-----	----	---	---

Meat and Food Inspection Statistics

The following table (Table 3) sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of the carcasses or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

TABLE 3

1957

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	9,407	1,038	5,679	38,847	26,687	—
Number inspected	9,407	1,038	5,679	38,847	26,687	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcasses condemned	7	10	21	25	104	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5,878	683	75	5,525	12,448	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	60.43%	66.76%	1.69%	14.28%	43.75%	—
TUBERCULOSIS:						
Whole carcasses condemned	16	14	15	1	17	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	590	139	13	—	872	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.44%	14.73%	.49%	.002%	3.09%	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	160	7	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	151	7	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	2	—	—	—	—	—

(Total number of carcasses examined 83,658)

(c) DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT ADMINISTRATION

From 1st June, 1957 the department took over most of the duties under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950 which were previously undertaken by the Borough Police. This transfer of duties was made with the approval of the Watch and Health Committees and the Chief Constable. All qualified inspectors on the staff of the department have been appointed as Inspectors under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950 but most of the work of inspection under the Act is carried out by the department's whole-time meat inspectors.

The Diseases of Animals Act, 1950 is a complicated piece of legislation and is augmented by a large number of Orders relating to specific diseases of animals. The aim of these Orders is to limit the spread of animal diseases such as swine fever, foot and mouth disease, anthrax and various diseases affecting poultry, and most of the work so far undertaken has consisted of controlling the movement of livestock within the borough. Certain functions under the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders still remain with the police and close co-operation continues between this department, the police and the Divisional Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(d) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

The following table gives details of the nature and weight of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption during the year 1957.

The bulk of the foodstuffs was surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors at the time of inspection.

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat and Offal (at Slaughterhouse, Shortacre Street)	...	112	18	0	5
Meat (at Butchers' shops)	...	—	—	—	—
Tinned and other packed foods		3	13	3	10
Bacon	... ..	—	—	—	9
Cheese	... ..	—	2	3	13
Butter Beans	... ..	—	—	—	2
Cake	... ..	—	—	—	21
Total		116	15	2	6

Subject to the adoption of satisfactory public health safeguards in the method of disposal, every effort was made to salvage for purposes other than human consumption the food condemned as unfit.

(e) FOODS OF UNSATISFACTORY QUALITY

During the past year several articles of food which for various reasons were of unsatisfactory quality were brought into the office by members of the public. The articles of food which were the subject of complaint included the following:—

- Loaf of bread containing paper;
- Tinned peaches containing wasp;
- Soft drink with disinfectant odour from bottle stopper;
- Packet of tea with mole cricket remains;
- Pork pie containing fly.
- Loaf of bread containing piece of cup;
- Loaf of bread contaminated with grease.
- Loaf of bread containing wasp;
- Cream sponge cake containing wasp.

In each of the cases mentioned enquiries were made of the manufacturers or vendors as to the possible cause of the incident and where appropriate, inspections were made of the premises concerned. Having considered the explanations of the manufacturers and vendors the committee decided in the circumstances not to take legal proceedings in any of the cases mentioned and dealt with most of them by the issue of warning letters.

(f) MILK

Food and Drugs Act

During the year 101 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis. All these samples were reported as being genuine but 10 of the samples taken during the first quarter of the year, although satisfying the Freezing Point Test, had a low solids-not-fat content.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations

There were 543 samples of milk taken under the above Regulations and tested by the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford; the results of these tests are set out in Table 4 on page 67.

Of 371 samples to which the Methylene Blue Test was applied, 347 were satisfactory, 5 failed the test and 19 were declared "void" because the shade temperature in the laboratory during the compulsory holding time had exceeded 65°F. The 5 unsatisfactory samples consisted of 1 farm bottled T.T. Channel Islands Milk, 1 T.T. (Pasteurised) Channel Islands Milk, 1 T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk and 2 Pasteurised Milk. Except for the T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk, these unsatisfactory samples came from areas outside Walsall and the local authorities concerned were notified.

The Phosphatase Test, to determine whether or not the pasteurisation of the milk had been carried out according to the Regulations, was applied to 356 samples. All were satisfactory.

The Turbidity Test was applied to 100 samples of Sterilised Milk and showed that the heat treatment of these samples was satisfactory.

Biological Tests

From 13 milk producing farms within the borough, 53 samples of milk were examined biologically for Tubercle Bacilli and Brucella Abortus.

The milk from 2 of these farms was found to be infected with Tubercle Bacilli and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was notified. As a result of examination of the herds by the Ministry's Veterinary Officer, 2 cows from one farm and one cow from another were found to be affected with tuberculosis and were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

All the samples were negative to tests for Brucella Abortus.

TABLE 4

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949 TO 1954
RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK, 1957

MILK DESIGNATION	SUMMARY OF RESULTS				PRESCRIBED TESTS						BIOLOGICAL TESTS				
					Methylene blue		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Tubercle B		Br. Abortus		
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Void *	Total	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Nega- tive	Posi- tive	Nega- tive	Posi- tive	
T.T. Channel Islands (farm bottled)	14	1	—	15	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Channel Islands (Pasteurised)	59	1	5	65	59	1	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	93	1	7	101	93	1	94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised (Channel Islands)	15	—	—	15	15	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	92	2	7	101	92	2	94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised Schools Milk	93	—	—	93	93	—	93	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised...	100	—	—	100	—	—	—	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Channel Islands (Bulk)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Bulk)	13	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	13	—
Undesignated (Bulk)	38	2	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	2	40	—
TOTALS	517	7	19	543	366	5	356	—	100	—	51	2	53	—	—

* Samples declared "Void" by reason of atmospheric shade temperature exceeding 65°F. at the Laboratory.

TABLE 5

RESULTS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES, 1957

METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TESTS

Classification	No. of samples	Percentage of total samples	Number in each Grade				Percentage in each Grade			
			Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Local Manufacture (Heat Treated) ..	48	58.54%	29	5	8	6	60.42%	10.42%	16.66%	12.50%
Local Manufacture (Cold Mix) ..	9	10.97%	8	—	1	—	88.89%	—	11.11%	—
Local Manufacture (Total) ..	57	69.51%	37	5	9	6	64.91%	8.77%	15.79%	10.53%
Other Manufacture ..	25	30.49%	23	2	—	—	92.00%	8.00%	—	—
All Samples (Total) ..	82	100.00%	60	7	9	6	73.17%	8.54%	10.97%	7.32%

Grades 1 & 2 Grades 3 & 4

1954	...	...	93.04%	...	6.96%
1955	...	...	88.10%	...	11.81%
1956	...	...	91.75%	...	8.25%
1957	...	...	81.71%	...	18.29%

(g) ICE CREAM**Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1952****Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953**

There are now 7 manufacturers of ice cream in the borough. Four of these carry out on their own premises the statutory heat treatment of their ice cream, one manufacturer freezes a mixture which has previously been heat treated by another manufacturer and two manufacturers employ the "Cold mix" method (i.e. the ice cream is reconstituted from a powder which has been heat treated during manufacture).

In connection with the Heat Treatment Regulations, 82 samples of ice cream were submitted for the Methylene Blue Test, compared with 109 last year. The results are set out in Table 5 on page 68. It will be noted from the comparative percentage over the past four years that the results for 1957 represent a slight lowering of standard—this is in part accounted for by a greater number of the samples being taken in "following up" previously unsatisfactory samples.

26 samples of ice cream were subjected to chemical analysis by the Public Analyst and all complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953 as to composition. The average composition of the samples is shown below, the minimum legal standard being indicated in brackets:—

Milk Solids Not Fat ...	...	10.79%	(7.5%)
Fat ...	...	9.39%	(5.0%)
Sucrose ...	...	14.35%	(7.5%)

(h) FOOD HYGIENE

By the end of the year a total of 1,397 premises connected with the preparation, serving and sale of foods were visited and supplied with literature explaining the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

This number was made up as follows:—

Bakehouses ...	...	23
Butchers ...	...	119
Canteens ...	...	71
Chemists ...	...	32
Clubs ...	...	29
Fish Fryers ...	...	73
Fishmongers ...	...	16
Flour Confectioners ...	...	55
Greengrocers ...	...	123
Grocers, General Provision Dealers ...	...	485
Licensed Premises ...	...	189
Off Licences ...	...	37
Restaurants, Cafés, Snack Bars ...	...	37
Sugar Confectioners ...	...	108
		<hr/> 1,397 <hr/>

It is regretted that because of shortage of staff it was not possible to make routine and regular visits to food premises for the purpose of ensuring that the Regulations were being complied with.

(i) SAMPLING (FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955)

Mr. F. D. G. Chalmers, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., of the firm of Messrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby, Birmingham, held the appointment of Public Analyst. During the year 206 samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 were submitted to him for analysis.

Of the 206 samples submitted 47 were formal and 159 informal. Four of these (equivalent to 1.94 per cent. of the total) were unsatisfactory. The total includes 110 samples of milk, all of which were satisfactory.

Detailed list of samples

Milk 110, Ice Cream 18, Butter 13, Mineral Waters 11, Glacé Cherries 4, Pickles 3, Marzipan 3, Currants 3, Ground Almonds 3, Plum Puddings 3, Malt Vinegar 3, Pepper 2, Table Jelly 2, Honey 2, Sultanas 2, Mincemeat 2, Mixed Peel 2, Mixed Spice 2, Yoghourt 2, and 1 each of the following: Shortening, Sauce, Salad Dressing, Tinned Cream, Bicarbonate of Soda, Epsom Salts, Cake Mix, Baking Powder, Chicken Fillets, Icing Mix, Sardines, Stew, Dessicated Coconut, Cooking Fat, Pastry Mix, Red Salmon.

DETAILS OF UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Serial No. of Sample	Article	Whether formal or informal	Nature of Adulteration	Observa- tions
47	Orange Crush	Informal	Saccharin 37 grains per 10 gallons in excess of maximum allowed	Reported to Health Committee
89	Marzipan	ditto.	Mould growth	ditto.
169	Mixed Peel	ditto.	Contained 25 parts per million of cop- per. (Recommended limit 20 parts per million).	ditto.
177	Pastry Mix	ditto.	Unsatisfactory label. (No address of packer or trade mark on label).	ditto.

PART 4—WATER

During the past year 86 samples of water from various sources were submitted for bacteriological examination. An analysis of the results of these samples is set out in Table 6 on page 72.

It will be seen that most of the unsatisfactory samples were obtained from a bore supply. This borehole supplies water to a food processing firm and the unsatisfactory bacteriological results naturally caused considerable anxiety especially as the supply had hitherto been excellent. The firm, as a safeguard, installed a chlorinating plant to treat the water in the rising main connecting the borehole to the storage tank. Investigations and further samples suggested that surface contamination had gained access to the water supply when the borehole was disturbed to permit the servicing and examination of a submerged electric pump. The residual water above the pump appears to have been a reservoir of contamination and it was accordingly chlorinated and then removed by pumping. Samples taken after this treatment proved to be quite satisfactory.

One sample taken from a mains supply of drinking water was suspicious; no reason could be found for this, and further samples were satisfactory.

The water in a natural pool used by children was tested and found to be grossly contaminated. The pool was emptied, the bottom cleared, and then covered with gravel.

TABLE 6
RESULTS OF WATER SAMPLES, 1957

Source of Samples	Classification by Coliform Count				Totals
	0 Highly Satisfactory	1 to 3 Satisfactory	4 to 10 Suspicious	Over 10 Unsatis- factory	
1st Class Swimming Bath ...	26	—	1	—	27
2nd Class Swimming Bath ...	3	1	—	—	4
Brine Swimming Bath ...	7	—	—	—	7
Open Air Swimming Bath ...	5	—	—	—	5
Children's Lido Pools ...	3	—	—	1	4
Natural Pool ...	—	—	—	1	1
Bore ...	14	1	4	11	30
Mains Supply ...	5	2	1	—	8
Totals ...	63	4	6	13	86

PART 5—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General Policy

Numerous visits have been made to industrial premises within the borough, and the co-operation of industrial managements sought in order to secure the abatement or reduction of smoke and fume nuisances. The Borough Surveyor has again co-operated with the department, and during the year 76 plans were inspected, of which 22 related to processes with a possible source of smoke emission, 10 to dust emission and 19 to the risk of fume nuisance.

Improvements in industrial fuel burning plant

Two vertical boilers which were a constant source of smoke nuisance have been converted to oil firing, and at one factory the oil firing system to the forge ovens was modified, thus eliminating a serious nuisance to the neighbouring dwellinghouses.

Dust and Fume Control.

Several firms have improved their methods of grit and dust collection, and two of the larger foundries in the town have installed wet type grit arrestors to their cupolas, thus considerably lessening the amount of grit deposited in the immediate vicinity.

Clean Air Act, 1956. Smoke Control Areas.

Because of staffing conditions it was not possible to make any progress during the year with regard to the establishment of smoke control areas.

Training in Boilerhouse Practice

It is regretted that owing to lack of interest by employers and employees a boilerhouse practice course at the Walsall Technical College could not be held.

Measurement of Air Pollution.

The reports of chemical analyses of the contents of the deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments are set out in tabular form on pages 74 and 75 and in graphical form on pages 78 and 79.

The department co-operates with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the investigation of atmospheric pollution, and sends to that Department each month the results of the analyses of the six deposit gauges and nine lead peroxide instruments. In six areas of the town the amount of zinc oxide deposited per square mile per month is also calculated.

The amount of deposited matter for 1957 is on the whole slightly less than for 1956, but the amount of sulphur dioxide present in the atmosphere again shows a slight increase.

The volumetric apparatus continues to be operated, and the daily readings give an accurate picture of the amount of suspended impurity and sulphur dioxide present in the air of the town centre. The monthly average figures for the years 1956 and 1957 are tabulated on page 76 and appear in graphical form on page 77. The graphs show clearly the difference in atmospheric pollution during the winter and summer months, and this difference is almost entirely accounted for by the increased use of the domestic fire during wintertime.

Once more I record my indebtedness to the Sewage Works Manager (Mr. J. P. Barnes) and his staff for carrying out the chemical analyses in connection with atmospheric pollution, and to Mr. J. C. W. Day, F.R.Met.Soc., for meteorological information.

TABLE 7
Deposit Gauges—Records of Deposits, 1957

Deposits in tons per square mile per month

Month	Bloxwich (Station St.)	North (Transport Depot)	Central (Hatherton Road)	East (Sutton Road)	South (Brockhurst)	South-West (Alumwell School)
Jan.	21.37	42.73	20.74	6.54	17.62	25.55
Feb.	31.22	17.98	18.82	5.37	14.74	11.44
March	32.98	17.73	22.27	8.54	13.89	13.83
April	16.06	11.56	14.00	10.90	6.97	10.24
May	19.11	17.31	20.40	9.41	18.59	14.07
June	11.86	18.07	18.58	8.94	11.60	13.30
July	26.81	19.24	—	13.66	15.55	11.00
Aug.	20.26	18.88	—	11.73	12.73	—
Sept.	14.78	22.97	—	9.17	14.11	—
Oct.	18.99	33.16	21.36	11.78	13.64	12.41
Nov.	9.54	15.56	14.03	5.93	9.55	7.23
Dec.	18.41	29.45	27.04	11.37	16.82	16.40
Totals	241.39	264.64	177.24	113.34	165.81	135.47

MONTHLY AVERAGE: —

1957	... 20.11	22.05	19.69***	9.44	13.81	13.55**
1956	... 16.93**	22.78	20.98	10.81	14.73	13.74
1955	... 18.24	20.30**	21.65*	9.36	14.74	12.76**
1954	... 18.99	23.62*	23.03	12.74*	12.84	14.39*

* Averages for 11 months only.

** Averages for 10 months only.

*** Averages for 9 months only.

1957 Average for whole town	...	...	16.44 tons/sq. mile/month
1956 Average for whole town	...	...	16.66 tons/sq. mile/month
1955 Average for whole town	...	...	16.17 tons/sq. mile/month
1954 Average for whole town	...	...	17.60 tons/sq. mile/month

TABLE 8

Lead Peroxide Gauges—Record of Sulphur Pollution, 1957

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected expressed in Milligrammes of SO₃ per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Blox- wich	North (Trans- port)	Central (Hather- ton Rd.)	East (Sutton Road)	South (Brock- hurst)	Blox- wich Road	Manor Hospital	Dartmouth Avenue	Trees Road
Jan.	3.97	7.36	3.71	0.99	3.78	3.48	2.65	2.19	2.17
Feb.	3.95	7.74	—	1.24	3.53	1.65	2.95	2.08	—
Mar.	4.12	4.03	6.95	1.22	2.75	2.68	2.83	2.15	4.15
April	2.64	3.17	2.61	0.72	2.14	1.90	2.29	1.29	1.30
May	2.80	2.96	2.44	1.56	2.22	2.78	2.55	2.37	1.56
June	1.74	1.88	1.99	0.47	1.23	1.23	1.59	0.91	0.73
July	—	2.06	1.72	0.47	1.57	1.05	1.32	1.10	0.88
Aug.	—	1.82	2.42	0.92	1.62	1.12	1.22	0.98	—
Sept.	2.15	2.32	—	0.50	2.50	1.89	1.81	1.03	0.96
Oct.	4.50	3.69	4.10	1.08	2.95	2.86	3.09	2.39	2.94
Nov.	3.64	3.68	4.19	1.49	3.25	2.88	3.41	2.27	2.27
Dec.	4.41	5.38	4.37	1.44	3.68	3.33	3.67	2.20	2.32
Totals	33.92	46.09	34.50	12.10	31.22	26.85	29.38	20.96	19.28

MONTHLY AVERAGES (CRUDE):

1957:	3.39**	3.84	3.45**	1.01	2.60	2.24	2.45	1.75	1.93**
1956:	3.09	3.14	3.44	1.07	2.79	2.34	2.57	1.86	1.63
1955:	2.79	3.06*	3.39	0.99	2.49	2.08	2.55	1.69	1.54*
1954:	2.63*	3.01	3.21	1.17	2.42	2.25	2.28	1.63	1.52

* Averages for 11 months.

** Averages for 10 months.

1957 Average for whole town	...	...	2.52 M.Grs./100 sq. cms./day
1956 Average for whole town	...	...	2.44 M.Grs./100 sq. cms./day
1955 Average for whole town	...	...	2.29 M.Grs./100 sq. cms./day
1954 Average for whole town	...	...	2.23 M.Grs./100 sq. cms./day

ANNUAL RAINFALL

1957	...	...	27.97 inches
1956	...	...	26.84 inches
1955	...	...	26.28 inches
1954	...	...	36.23 inches

TABLE 9

VOLUMETRIC METHOD—RECORDED DAILY

Apparatus situate at Council House, Walsall.

Suspended Impurity (Smoke) expressed as milligrammes
per cubic metre.

Sulphur Dioxide expressed as parts per million.

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR 1956 AND 1957.

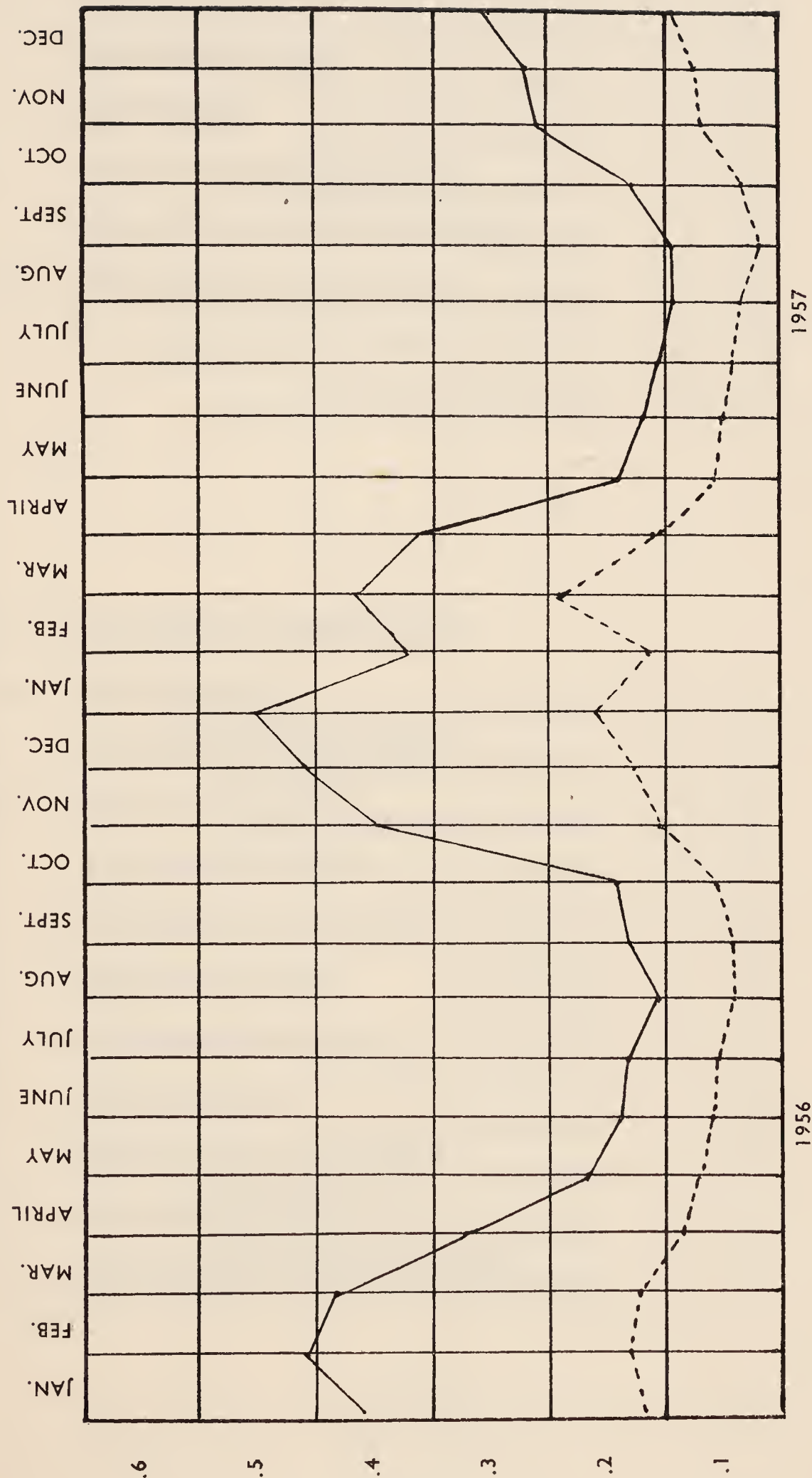
			Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide	
			1956	1957		1956	1957
January	...	...	.405	.321	...	.142	.114
February	...	...	.394	.378	...	.139	.192
March	...	...	.274	.309	...	.089	.110
April	...	...	.163	.149	...	.077	.068
May	...	...	.131	.126	...	.063	.065
June	...	...	.128	.101	...	.058	.049
July	...	...	.101	.096	...	.043	.048
August	...	...	.128	.097	...	.044	.029
September	...	...	.131	.130	...	.055	.042
October	...	...	.351	.203	...	.106	.075
November	...	...	.409	.214	...	.134	.076
December	...	...	.456	.250	...	.165	.093
Average for year			.255	.198	...	.093	.080

VOLUMETRIC METHOD

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR 1956—1957.

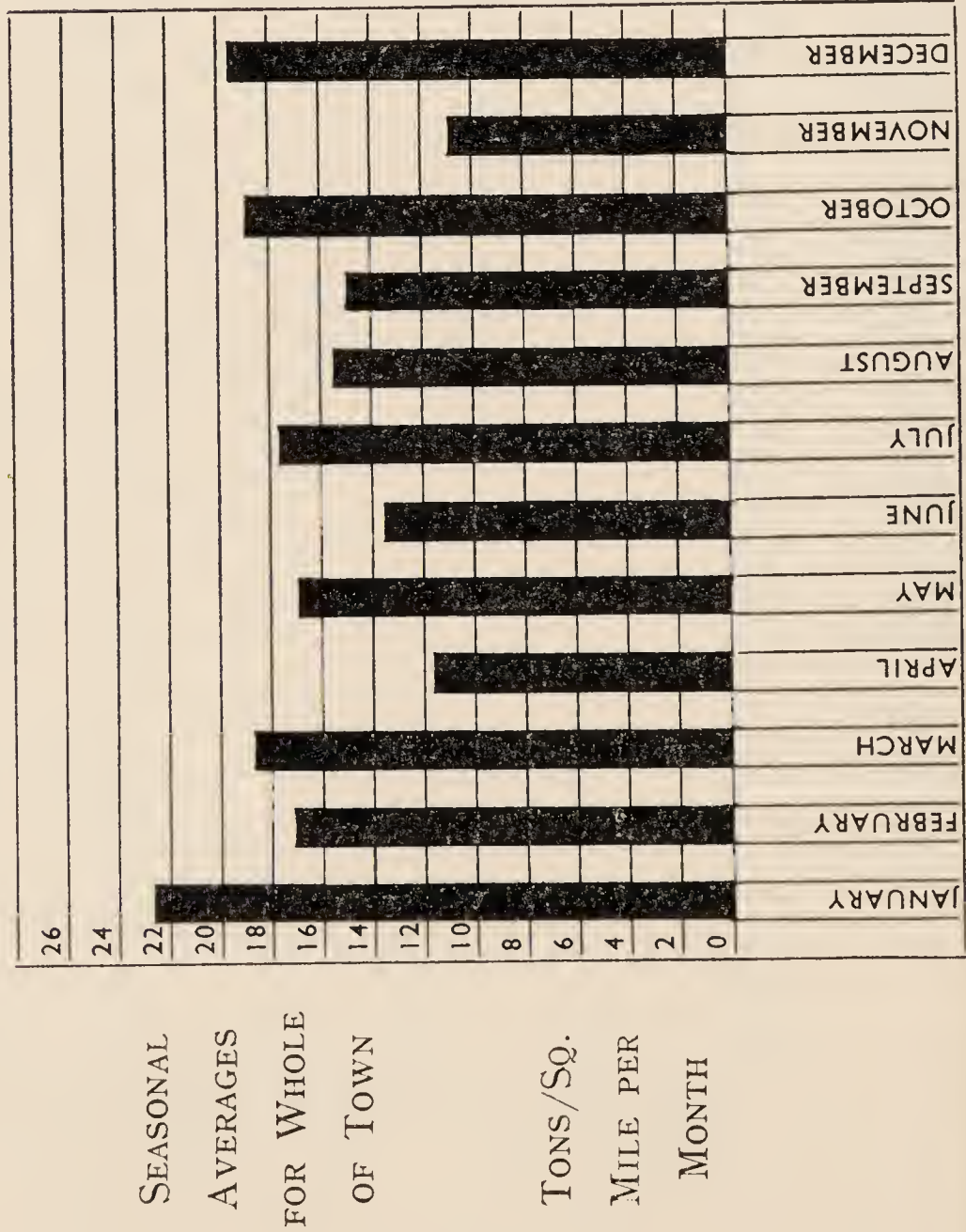
— SUSPENDED IMPURITY (SMOKE) EXPRESSED AS MILLIGRAMS/CU. METRE.

..... SULPHUR DIOXIDE EXPRESSED AS PARTS PER MILLION.



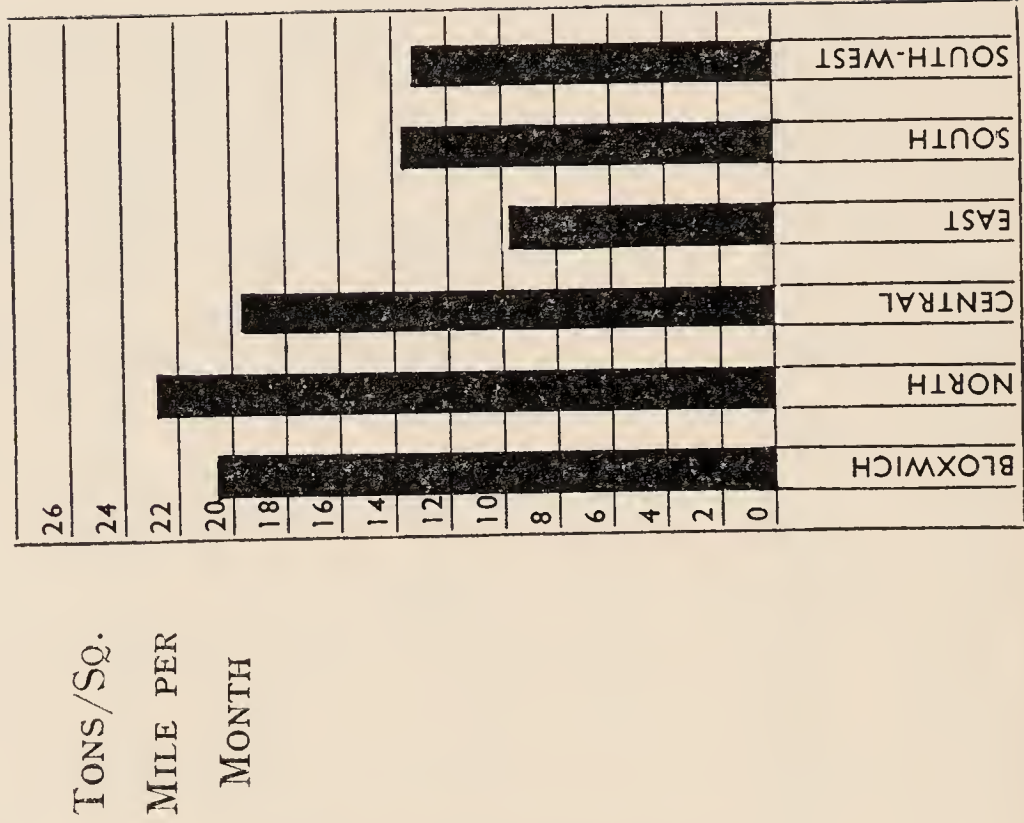
DEPOSIT GAUGES 1957

SEASONAL INCIDENCE (AVERAGES)



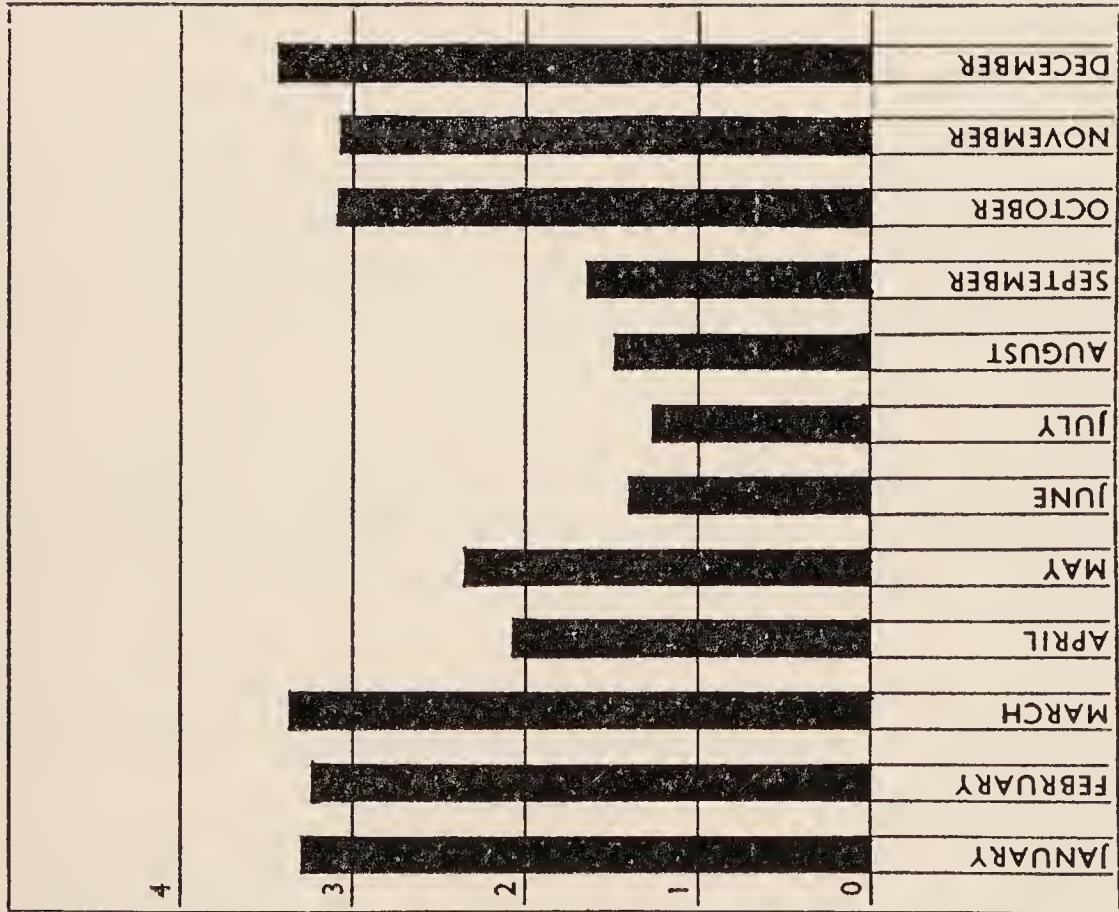
DEPOSIT GAUGES 1957

DISTRICT INCIDENCE (AVERAGES)



(SULPHUR DIOXIDE)

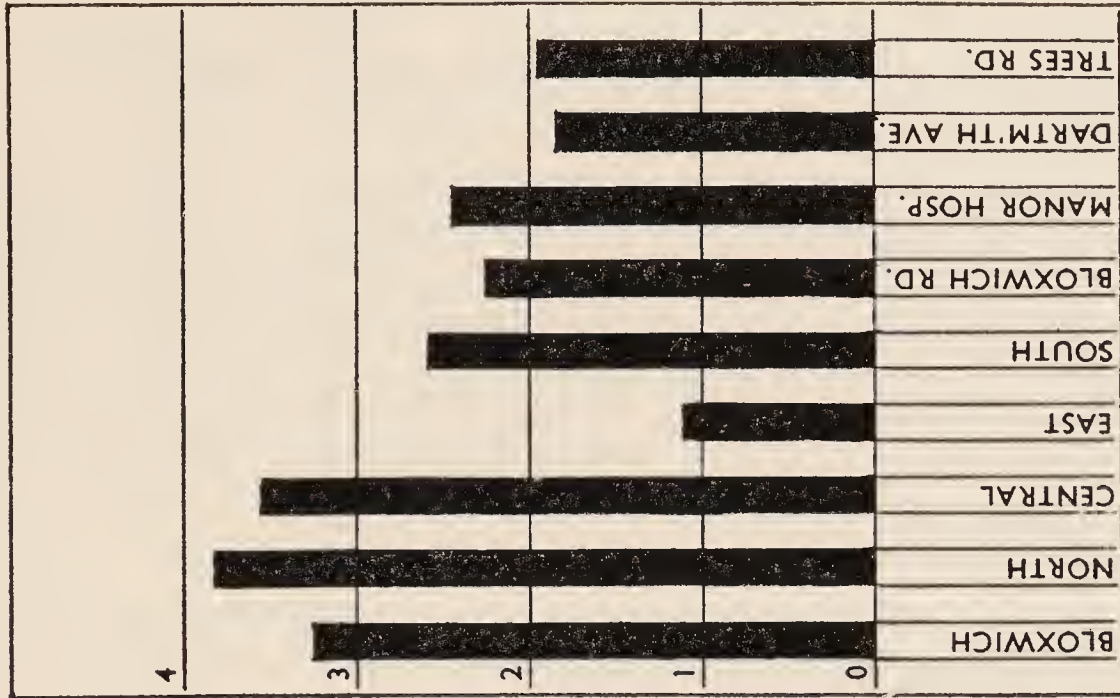
SEASONAL INCIDENCE (AVERAGE)



M. GRAMS.
SO₃/100 SQ.
CMS./DAY

DISTRICT INCIDENCE

(CRUDE AVERAGES)



M. GRAMS.
SO₃/100 SQ.
CMS./DAY

PART 6—DISINFESTATION

Hydrogen Cyanide and other Disinfestation Treatments

In accordance with normal practice the house and household effects of each prospective Council house tenant were inspected and where the inspection revealed the presence of bed bugs, fleas or timber boring beetles, the removal was undertaken by this department. The furniture and effects of 223 families were disinfested by hydrogen cyanide gas because of the presence of bugs or timber beetles; this work was carried out on behalf of the Housing Department. In addition, 101 Corporation owned houses were treated with insecticides in order to eradicate wood boring beetles, bed bugs, fleas, lice, ants or cockroaches.

Because of insect infestations of one kind or another 105 privately owned houses were also disinfested by the application of liquid, powder or gaseous insecticides.

Disinfection and Disinfestation of Articles

The steam disinfector at Bloxwich Depot was in regular operation throughout the year for treatment of bedding, clothing and other articles which had been exposed to infection or in contact with vermin. A total of 2,011 infected articles were treated, some of them on behalf of neighbouring authorities who do not possess disinfecting apparatus.

Rodent Control

During the year 2,679 visits were made to premises in connection with the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949; 622 premises, 81 of which were business premises, were found to be infested with rats and mice. Appropriate treatment either by poisoning or trapping, was carried out by the department in each case.

Systematic poison baiting of the sewers of the town was carried out between 16th May and 24th June. This treatment is normally carried out twice a year and is of great value in limiting the rat and mice population. Treatment was also carried out at the Bescot and Beechdale Sewage Works, the Arboretum and the brook course.

In 24 cases the immediate cause of the rat infestation of premises was found to be defects in drainage systems; where necessary, notices were served on the owners asking them to remedy the defective drains.

Income

While much of the work of disinfestation and rodent control, particularly on domestic premises, is carried out free of charge, charges are made in certain other cases. During 1957 £583 was received for such work compared with £514 during the previous year. The £583 was made up as follows:—

General Disinfestation Work	...	...	£227
Rodent Control Work	...	...	£356

PART 7—GENERAL

Factories, Shops and Offices

There are now 846 factories on the departmental register, the same number as last year.

Complaints of infringements of those sections of the Factories Act, 1937, which are enforceable by the Local Authority (including infringements of the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938) were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in respect of 42 premises. These complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken. Details of the types of factories inspected and of the action taken are set out in Table 8 on pages 83 and 84.

During the year a number of plans of extensions, alterations and improvements in factories, shops and offices were examined in order to ensure that the premises concerned complied with the appropriate requirements of the Factories Acts and Food and Drugs Act.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

During 1957 six samples of feeding stuffs were taken and submitted for analysis to the Agricultural Analyst; all the samples were reported to be satisfactory.

No samples of fertilisers were taken.

Supply of Dustbins

The scheme under which the Corporation supplies dustbins to houses and levies an annual charge on the owner or occupier is working satisfactorily and an increasing proportion of houses in the borough is being brought into the scheme.

During the year 312 dustbins were supplied under the scheme compared with 19 supplied by owners or occupiers of houses because of notices sent by this department; (many additional dustbins were, of course, supplied privately without the knowledge of the department).

Cinemas

Visits to cinemas by inspectors have, because of pressure of other work, been limited to the investigation of complaints about sanitary accommodation and cleanliness. It is again regretted that it has been impracticable to carry out tests on the effectiveness of ventilation systems in use in cinemas.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

The main aim of this Act is to ensure that filling materials used in upholstered and similar articles are clean. The Act requires premises on which filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys and baby carriages, etc., to be registered, and premises on which rag flock is manufactured or stored for certain purposes to be annually licensed.

There are no premises in Walsall where rag flock is made or stored for distribution to registered premises, but there are three factories at which rag flock is used for various trade purposes, and these premises are visited from time to time.

The Prescribed Analysts are Messrs. T. C. Williams and L. W. Ogden of Slumberland (Research) Ltd., Stockport. Six samples of Rag Flock were taken during the year and submitted to them for analysis; all conformed to the requirements of the Regulations.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act, which precludes a person from occupying a pet shop unless he holds a licence granted by the local authority, applies to all premises (including private house) where the business of selling animals as pets is carried on.

During the year 10 applications for licences were received and all were granted, subject to compliance with certain conditions.

PART 8—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

No legal proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 were taken by this department during the year under review. With the authority of the Health Committee proceedings were, however, taken in consequence of reports from officers of the Borough Police Force, for contraventions of the Public Health Act, 1936 and details of these particular proceedings are given below:—

Act under which proceedings were taken	Nature of Offence	Remarks
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 154	Rag Dealer giving toys in exchange for rags.	Fined £2 and ordered to pay witnesses expenses, 5s.
Ditto	Ditto	Fined 10s.

A number of prosecutions were, however, taken by the department under Section 106 of the Walsall Corporation Act, 1930 in connection with the unauthorised parking of tents, vans and similar structures and details of these proceedings are summarised below:—

Informations laid	...	...	...	...	68
Summonses served	...	...	...	...	48
Defendants appearing in Court	...	...	...	...	24

Penalties imposed: 1 fine of £1; 35 fines of £2; 1 fine of £3; 1 fine of £3 plus a daily fine of £1.

TABLE 8

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1938

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	31	3	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	813	151	26	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	2	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		846	154	28	—	

TABLE 8 (continued)

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	16	13	—	16	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	1	1	—	1	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	1	1	—	1	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	1	1	—	1	9
(a) insufficient						
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	36	30	—	26	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	14	14	—	14	12
TOTAL	60	69	60	—	59	60

OUTWORKERS

In accordance with Sec. 110 of the Act, reports were received that 87 persons were employed as outworkers, all being engaged in making wearing apparel. It was not necessary to take any action in connection with these

REPORT

OF THE

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ended 31st December, 1957

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report on the School Health Service for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

We have been fortunate this year in having a full complement of staff with the result that the volume of work has considerably increased on last year. The total number of children examined at periodic inspections rose by nearly 50 % from 6,019 to 8,905; many of the children found with defects were re-examined during the year and the total inspections amounted to 13,345.

In contrast to the favourable report on the general Health of Walsall school children, it is disappointing to report that the problem of dental health is still far from being solved. For many years now the Principal School Dental Officer has reported an incidence of dental caries higher than the national average and has repeatedly commented on his inadequate resources in man power to deal with this situation.

This incidence of caries is, of course, a complex problem in which faulty dietetic habits and particularly an excessive consumption of sugar play a considerable part. It has, however, been noted that in areas where the sodium fluoride content of the drinking water is relatively high this has been matched by a low incidence of caries. Consequent upon this several pilot schemes have been inaugurated in different parts of the country to determine whether a general lowering of the caries rate can be achieved by the artificial addition of minute quantities of sodium fluoride to the drinking water. The results will be watched with great interest since in this area the content of sodium fluoride in drinking water is naturally low and should this artificial addition of fluoride prove an important factor in lowering the caries incidence, then this may be an important means of bringing the dental caries problem in Walsall within manageable proportions.

Owing to the demands on the staff by the immunising campaign against poliomyelitis it was not possible to keep up the total number of cleanliness inspections to the figure of last year and in fact this

dropped by 50% from 81,120 to 40,324. The total number of individual pupils found to be infested was practically the same as last year, 1,742. It is sad to have to comment repeatedly on this figure which could, with co-operation from all concerned, be substantially lower.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the need for further provision for the education of mentally handicapped children in Walsall, that is to say those who under the Education Act and regulations made thereunder are classified as educationally subnormal. The term 'educationally subnormal' is a wide one and covers not only children having limited ability, but also other factors which result in educational retardation. It is the responsibility of this department to advise the Education Committee regarding the special educational treatment necessary and as a result of these examinations we have now a figure of 150 children requiring special educational treatment in day schools for the educationally subnormal. A large number of these children are examined at the age of between 7 and 8 years and it is very much an exception for any child to receive the appropriate special educational treatment recommended in under two years from the time of the examination. Bearing in mind that these children are often retarded up to two years or more at the age of 7, it can well be understood that delay in providing special educational treatment may have a deleterious effect on the child's educational attainments to say nothing of the psychological effect of falling behind his fellows.

In addition to these children there are, of course, other children not so seriously handicapped but who are in need of some degree of remedial teaching. Such children could well be catered for in special classes from whence they could be returned to the ordinary school stream. The three special classes which are at present available are doing good work, but there is much need for further such provision so that more children could be dealt with.

During the year a further 8 pupils were admitted to the Beacon School, Lichfield. This school, which caters for boys only, does excellent work and many cases sent there have benefited enormously. This has been particularly true of cases where limited ability has been coupled with a poor school attendance record and I must gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Committee in our desire to see that such children who require this type of special educational treatment do in fact get it.

We are indebted to the good offices of the West Bromwich Education Committee for the provision of facilities for Child Guidance treatment for Walsall cases and during the year an agreement between the two Authorities resulted in one day a week being made available for the treatment of Walsall cases in Walsall at the Littleton Street Clinic.

1.—SCHOOL HEALTH WORK

Medical Inspections.—The total number of children examined at periodic inspections rose by nearly 50% from 6,019 to 8,905, many of the children found with defects were re-examined during the year and the total inspections amounted to 13,345. Of the total of 8,905 examined at periodic medical inspections, 1,217 were found to be suffering from defects which required treatment or observation. The bulk of these were of a minor character, mainly defects of vision through refractive errors.

Of the total children examined the general condition of 98.66% was found to be satisfactory, and the remainder, 1.34% were followed up at subsequent examinations and many received remedial treatment, including the provision of convalescent holidays.

School Clinics. There are in Walsall to-day three School Clinics, one at Bradford Street, one at Field Road, Bloxwich, and one at Littleton Street. The Walsall Clinic is open for medical advice by medical officers three times a week, and for advice and treatment by nurses every working day. The Bloxwich Clinic has two medical sessions and three nursing sessions a week. Both clinics are well attended, and, whilst their main purpose is the investigation of disease and the assessment of disability, they are equipped for the treatment of cases of minor illness and injury. The Clinic at Littleton Street is used for Speech Therapy and special examinations only.

The following details are given of the work undertaken in each of the above clinics:—

BRADFORD STREET CLINIC, WALSALL.

Minor Ailments	...	...	3 sessions weekly
Dressings	...	...	6 sessions weekly
Ophthalmic	...	...	2 sessions weekly
Dental ...	...	...	7 sessions weekly

LITTLETON STREET CLINIC, WALSALL.

Speech Therapy	...	...	7 sessions weekly
Dental ...	...	...	9 sessions weekly

FIELD ROAD CLINIC, BLOXWICH, WALSALL.

Minor Ailments	...	...	2 sessions weekly
Dressings	...	...	3 sessions weekly
Speech Therapy	...	...	3 sessions weekly
Dental ...	...	...	4 sessions weekly

During 1957, 2,621 children attended the minor ailments clinics to consult the medical officers, many being referred for fuller investigation to the clinics from school inspections, and others presented by the parents for advice. Altogether, some 3,616 examinations were carried out.

The school nurses hold their own sessions at the clinics for the dressing of minor injuries and the application of treatment recommended by the medical officers. 1,577 children attended for these purposes and a total of 5,488 attendances was made.

Handicapped Children. There are many children in the community who suffer from a disease or disability to a degree affecting their ability to attend school or their ability to benefit from ordinary educational methods. Such children are known as Handicapped Children, and the handicap may be one of the body or of the mind. It is a major duty of the School Health Service to ascertain and assess such children, and to make recommendations concerning the child's particular requirements.

As a result of such recommendations, 8 children are receiving education in their own homes, 8 were admitted to Residential Schools for Physically Handicapped Children, 15 to Residential Schools for Mentally Handicapped Children and 3 to Residential Schools or Hostels for Maladjusted Children.

The presence of a Day School for Delicate Children in Walsall has allowed many children with minor physical disabilities to be educated in an environment suited to their medical needs.

Children who have made poor progress at school are referred for an opinion to the Principal School Medical Officer. The children are given a full medical examination and an assessment is made of their intelligence by the school medical officers. If there is impaired intelligence a recommendation may be made for schooling in a Special Day School equipped for this purpose. There were, at the end of 1957, 150 children awaiting admission to such a school.

Beacon School, Lichfield, has been most valuable in receiving educationally subnormal children for special educational treatment in a residential school, and 8 children were admitted to this school in the 12th months ended 31st January, 1958.

2.—SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

(a)	No. of Secondary Schools	...	...	...	...	12
	County Schools	...	...	10		
	Voluntary Schools	...	...	2		
(b)	No. of Primary Schools	...	...	...	...	49
	County Schools	...	...	35		
	Voluntary Schools	...	...	14		
(c)	Nursery Schools	...	...	...	...	3
(d)	Reedwood Park Day Special School	for 60 pupils.				
(e)	Beacon Residential School for Educationally Subnormal Pupils,	80 pupils.				

The number of pupils on the register at 31st December, 1957 was 20,921 as follows:— Primary and Secondary Modern Schools 17,751, Queen Mary's Schools 937, Elmore Green High School 536, Edward Shelley High School 511, Joseph Leckie Comprehensive Secondary School 1,003, Nursery Schools 121, Reedswood Park 62.

Of the 20,738 pupils in Primary and Secondary Schools, the average number of pupils on the register for the school year ended 31st July, 1957 was 20,454.

3.—PUPILS EXAMINED

8,905 pupils were examined in the course of routine inspections; of that number the general condition was described as satisfactory in 98.66% and unsatisfactory in 1.34%.

The following table shows the average heights and weights of all pupils medically inspected during 1957:—

	Number		Height, ins.		Weight, lbs.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
New Entrants (5+)	1,013	926	... 42.8"	42.6"	... 43.1	42.1
Juniors ... (8+)	893	868	... 51.3"	51.0"	... 62.9	62.0
Juniors ... (10+)	1,074	1,009	... 54.9"	54.7"	... 73.6	74.5
Seniors ... (12+)	855	787	... 58.2"	58.8"	... 89.7	94.0
Seniors ... (14+)	799	681	... 62.8"	61.7"	... 110.2	109.8

4.—SCHOOL CLINICS AND FOLLOW-UP

The treatment of Minor Ailments is carried out at Bradford Street and Field Road Clinics. The Littleton Street Clinic is reserved for Special Examinations and Speech Therapy.

949 children were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon for errors of refraction and squint, and spectacles were prescribed in 788 cases. 176 children received operative treatment for adenoids and for chronic tonsillitis, 2 for other nose and throat conditions, 4 for ear conditions and 6 received other forms of treatment.

The vigilance of the School Nurses in home visiting has been well maintained, 1,930 visits being paid during the year for the following purposes:— (a) obtaining the consent of parents for eye treatment, (b) interviewing parents with regard to their children failing to keep appointments with the Orthopædic Specialist, or failing to attend for treatment, (c) post tonsillectomy visits to arrange for

breathing exercises, (d) following up bad defects found at school medical inspections to ensure that treatment was obtained, (e) following up cases of long absence from school where it was thought that no treatment was being obtained, (f) arrangement of special medical examinations, particularly for mental testing, (g) arrangement of convalescent treatment, (h) survey work for a selected group of children.

5.—UNCLEANLINESS

During the year there were again only 8 children treated for scabies. Unfortunately, in 5 of these cases the children became re-infected and the treatment had to be repeated. The re-infection was thought to be due to an older member of the family who refused to accept treatment. In view of the small number of cases in recent years a regular Clinic for the treatment of scabies is no longer held, each case now being treated by appointment only.

The School Nursing Staff has been kept at full strength throughout the year although we have had some changes in personnel. A considerable amount of time has had to be given to the work of poliomyelitis vaccination which was regarded as a priority duty and, in view of this, it has not been possible to give adequate time to the work of cleanliness inspection in schools. Although only half the number of inspections were carried out (40,324 as against 81,120 last year) 1,724 individual children were found to be unclean on one or more occasions. This figure is very nearly as high as last year (1,861) when the normal number of inspections was carried out.

Several head-teachers have requested an inspection after they had received complaints from parents. Very little work has been done among the older boys since it was felt that the limited time available should be spent where the need was greatest. With an uncleanliness incidence of 9.8% in the schools where inspections have been carried out the problem does not appear to show any improvement.

6.—PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I am indebted to Mr. A. J. Spears, Physical Training Organiser, for the following interesting report on Physical Education in the Schools:—

“The year has been a very satisfactory one as far as progress with plans to provide new types of apparatus for primary schools is concerned. We now have approximately two-thirds of these departments which can introduce the more adventurous kinds of activity made possible by the portable forms of agility apparatus. We hope to complete the issue to remaining departments in the near future. The progress shown by the children in various experimental ways on this equipment emphasises the need for going still further

as expenditure allows, and to this end consideration will be given to the installation in primary departments of more ambitious fixed equipment so that there will be no great difference of approach to the work between the primary age groups and the children in secondary departments with properly equipped gymnasia.

Two new fully equipped gymnasia have been opened in the year for two secondary departments and these with their changing rooms, showers and proper storage facilities are a great boon to the schools concerned.

It is very gratifying to report that the improvements in cloakroom and washroom facilities in many schools have helped greatly towards the drive for cleanliness and hygienic approach to exercise. An extension of the provision of ventilated storage lockers for physical education clothing and footwear has been carried out in ten departments and we hope to continue this programme within the scope of our estimates.

The staffing position is generally satisfactory with only one or two departments suffering set-backs pending appointments of teachers able to cope with physical education.

The teaching as a whole is on sound lines and the general ability of the children is satisfactory.

Two refresher courses on primary school work, one for men and one for women teachers, were conducted during the Autumn term and these proved a great stimulus to the teaching. It is pleasing to record that teachers attending the courses represented nearly every primary department in the Borough and a better comprehension of the new approaches contained in the latest syllabuses, resulted.

Organised games and activities on the playing fields have progressed well. Athletics coaching in particular is improving every year and this year our local boys and girls did extremely well when representing the town in the County Athletic Championships.

We survived a severe setback to our swimming instruction plans when the small bath at Tower Street, which is reserved for schools, was closed throughout the term for roof repairs. In spite of a last minute redrafting of the time-tables and an inevitable reduction in time for swimming teaching we are glad to report that the total of awards for swimming certificates was only 51 behind last year's results, while there was an increase of 51 awards for the examinations of the Royal Life-Saving Society. This reflects great credit on the teachers responsible for the teaching of swimming.

The complete summary of awards is again given below with comparative figures for 1956.

		Boys			Girls		
		1957		1956	1957		1956
1st Class	...	46	...	54	...	40	25
2nd Class	...	165	...	171	...	185	137
3rd Class	...	233	...	278	...	137	170
Proficiency	...	160	...	246	...	136	156
Learners	...	272	...	272	...	267	183
Total Boys and Girls, 1956			...	...		1,692	
Total Boys and Girls, 1957			...	...		1,641	

Royal Life-Saving Society Awards

		Boys			Girls		
		1957		1956	1957		1956
Award of Merit		1	...	1	...	0	0
Instructor	...	0	...	0	...	1	1
Scholar Instructor		0	...	1	...	0	0
Bar to Bronze							
Cross	...	3	...	0	...	0	0
Bronze Cross	...	0	...	4	...	2	2
Bar to Bronze							
Medallion	...	3	...	6	...	7	5
Bronze Medallion		31	...	18	...	22	27
Intermediate							
Certificate	...	42	...	42	...	40	8
Elementary							
Certificate	...	61	...	65	...	58	40
Unigrip Certificate		2	...	0	...	0	2
Total for Boys and Girls, 1956			...	...		222	
Total for Boys and Girls, 1957			...	...		273	

A.S.A. Scholars' Awards

		Boys			Girls		
		1957		1956	1957		1956
Medallist	...	0	...	11	...	4	3
Advanced							
Award	...	0	...	1	...	0	0
Totals Boys and Girls, 1956			...	...		15	
Totals Boys and Girls, 1957			...	...		4	

7.—PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

I am indebted to Miss R. M. Norton, Schools Meals Organiser, for the following report on the School Meals Service.

“The total number of school meals provided during the past year was 1,026,632, of which 854,406 were paid and 172,226 free. These figures are lower than those of the previous year owing to the severe influenza epidemic in September and October. The epidemic first affected the children and later the School Meals Staff.

Improvements in the school kitchens and sculleries are still being carried out. A start has been made in fitting wash-hand basins in all the kitchens to comply with the hygiene regulations.

The “family” type of service has been introduced into two more schools this year, together with formica topped tables and separate chairs.

The “Milk in Schools” scheme, whereby all children on the school registers (even when absent through illness) are supplied with one-third pint daily, free of charge, remains in operation.

The latest figures as returned to the Ministry of Education and relating to a day in October are: Maintained Schools 15,791 one-third pints,—84%, Independent Schools, 523 one-third pint—90% of the children in school on that day. These figures also are slightly affected by the influenza epidemic.”

8.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria. Once again we report that there were no cases of diphtheria amongst school children during the year and the value of the many years’ hard work which have preceded this splendid result are now bearing fruit. The response to immunisation in the schools is very good indeed and we sincerely hope this position will be maintained. 1,037 children under the age of 5 years and 1,294 between the ages of 5 and 15, a total of 2,331 were immunised against diphtheria. 1,158 children received a re-inforcing dose.

Scarlet Fever. There were 21 cases of scarlet fever amongst school children, against 81 in 1956. There were no deaths.

Other Diseases. 502 school children were notified as suffering from measles but there were no deaths. There were 171 cases of whooping cough, 19 of primary pneumonia, 12 of influenzal pneumonia, 2 of poliomyelitis (paralytic), 1 of poliomyelitis (non-paralytic), 1 of dysentery and 1 of food poisoning.

9.—HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

The following table shows the number of handicapped children who were in attendance at special schools (day and residential) in January, 1958.

	Boys	Girls	Total
DEAF.			
Royal School for the Deaf, Birmingham	2	2	4
Royal West of England School for the Deaf, Exeter	—	1	1
Rangemoor Hall, Needwood (Partially Deaf)	—	2	2
Moseley Road Day School for the Deaf, Birmingham	1	—	1
BLIND.			
Royal Institute for the Blind, Birmingham	2	2	4
Exhall Grange, Warwickshire (Partially Sighted)	1	—	1
Sunshine Home Nursery School, Shrewsbury	1	—	1
MALADJUSTED.			
Ledstone Hall, Leeds	1	—	1
Shenstone Lodge (under West Bromwich L.E.A.)	2	—	2
River House, Henley-in-Arden ...	1	—	1
Farmhill House, Stroud	1	—	1
Wellesley Home, Windsor	—	1	1
Shotton Hall, Shrewsbury	1	—	1
EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL.			
Beacon School, Lichfield	53	—	53
St. Francis School, Monyhull	—	8	8
Townhill Park School, Southampton ...	—	5	5
Allerton Priory, Liverpool	—	1	1
Town Thorns School, near Rugby ...	—	4	4
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED.			
Exhall Grange, Warwickshire	—	1	1
Carlson House Day School for Spastics, Birmingham	2	1	3
St. Catherine's Home, Ventnor	1	—	1
Baskerville School, Birmingham ...	—	1	1
Brentwood School of Recovery	—	1	1
St. John's Open Air School, Woodford Bridge	3	—	3
Fairfield House, Broadstairs	—	3	3
Burton Hill House, Malmesbury ...	—	1	1
Reedwood Park School	—	—	63
	72	34	169
	—	—	—

During the year a further 64 children were ascertained to be educationally sub-normal and recommended for admission to special schools. At the end of the year the total number of educationally sub-normal children awaiting places in special schools was 166. Of this number 57 children are accommodated for the time being in special classes in Harden, Busill Jones and Edward Shelley Primary Schools and 38 in special classes in the W. R. Wheway Secondary School.

The Ministry of Education have approved the provision of a Special Day School for 160 educationally sub-normal children in the educational building programme for 1958/59 but the project has not yet been approved by the Education Committee or the Council.

During the year reports were submitted to the local health authority under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944, in respect of 11 children who had been found to be incapable of receiving education at school, and a further 14 children who would require supervision after leaving school.

Speech Therapy. In January, 1957, 89 children were receiving treatment at Littleton Street and Field Road Speech Therapy Clinics and a further 57 children began treatment during the year. The total number of attendances made by these 146 children was 1,395. 47 children were discharged during the year and 99 remained under treatment at the end of the year. At that time there was a waiting list of 123.

Mrs. B. J. Cooper resigned her appointment as Speech Therapist in April, 1957, and her successor (Miss A. Nicholls) did not take up her appointment until September, 1957. During the intervening period both clinics were closed and as a consequence there was a reduction compared with the previous year in the number of children for whom speech therapy could be made available.

It is pleasing to report that in the majority of cases parents co-operate willingly in their desire to secure the maximum benefit for their children by regular attendances at the clinics. There are, however, a number of children who attend only spasmodically and thereby waste a considerable amount of the Speech Therapist's time. A number of children failed to attend at all and their names were removed from the treatment list.

Mention should again be made of the special interest shown by teaching staffs and of their co-operation with the Speech Therapist. In cases where home co-operation is unsatisfactory, exercises have been supervised in schools and children have made greater progress than would have been the case otherwise. Visits to schools by the Speech Therapist have proved mutually advantageous.

189 parents or guardians were interviewed at the clinics and these contacts are invaluable in that intelligent co-operation at home can greatly increase a child's rate of progress. Preliminary interviews were also arranged for parents of children on the waiting list and advice given as to how the children could best be helped during the waiting period before treatment could begin.

The children under treatment during the year were classified as follows:— Dyslalia, 47; Stammer, 92; Cleft Plate, 4; Others, 3.

Home Tuition. Education was provided in their own homes for the whole or some part of the year for seven children whose physical condition was such that they were unable to attend primary or secondary schools. Teaching was also provided at the Manor Hospital, Sister Dora Hospital, and Goscote Hospital for children who were confined to hospital for long periods.

Hospital Treatment. 520 school children were known to have been admitted to local hospitals for in-patient treatment.

Crippled Children. 655 children received treatment at the Walsall Orthopædic Clinics and 85 children received treatment in various general and orthopædic hospitals.

10.—BEACON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

The following report on the work of the school during the year has been supplied by Mr. W. G. Weedon, the Headmaster of the Beacon Residential School for Educationally Sub-normal Children.

“The year 1957 passed eventfully but all too swiftly. The classroom side of the school was reorganised using a wide range of standardised attainment tests and adjusting the grouping of certain boys according to their individual requirements. Progression in the basic subjects is maintained by arranging so that boys may progress at their own best pace. Other work is arranged on a terminal basis to ensure that the requirements of any particular group are met. At all times and in all subjects a link is made with basic English work, practical Arithmetic and everyday situations.

School hours comprise but one third of our job, and during the week ten clubs are attended by the boys. Attendances are noted and boys encouraged to vary their activities according to their needs. Television, radio and time passing activities are controlled in relation to a boy's diligence in spending his other spare time. Saturday mornings are spent in Craft and Sports groups. The week-end has a pattern of its own to include Church attendance, pocket money spending, a film show, walks and perhaps a special activity or outing. At present one quarter of the school are boys in the care of various Children's Committees, and who have little or no worthwhile contact with their own kin or homes. This aggravates the problem of emotional

instability which often exists with retarded and E.S.N. children. Mr. Joseph's department helps Walsall boys enormously with regular letters and visits, but there is no substitute for the day to day personal contact and interest which should be taken in these boys. Often a boy's progress in class is a direct result of stabilising influences created and worked for in the out of school hours.

The school was visited on two occasions by the Mayor of Walsall and Mrs. Cartwright, and once by the Sheriff of Lichfield and his Lady. Visits were made by several teachers and students, and also by a group from the Birmingham University Diploma Course.

During the Christmas term practically all the boys had influenza and at one time no less than 65 boys were ill at the same time. A night watch was instituted, members of the staff doing four hour duty periods. Three boys required their own night watch—one with convulsions and two with severe nose bleeding. The staff worked hard and often throughout the epidemic and a "Thank you" from parents and myself seems scarcely adequate for their magnificent efforts. A brief but hardy convalescent period put the school on its feet again, and normal work was resumed at once. Apart from the epidemic the boys' health has been good, two boys requiring hospital treatment. At the end of another year I find myself indebted once again to Dr. Vaisey of Lichfield for help and advice over and above his professional services.

Major Staff appointments have remained unchanged except for the addition of one Woman Supervision Officer to implement the Whitley Council recommendation for a 46 hour week. Domestic posts vary as in previous years. Accidents and illness pulled down the Teacher and Ancillary Staff attendance figures. Teachers lost 53 days during the year, and Supervision and Ancillary Staff 208 days. Domestic staff lost 363 hours through occasional illness and waiting periods between appointments. A policy of breaking down full time domestic posts to part time establishment is proving itself.

The Christmas term had many difficulties but proved a successful one. The six-monthly progress tests were above the average in spite of the influenza epidemic and staff shortages.

During the year two boys were withdrawn, two transferred to Secondary Modern Schools and five discharged. All new boys were from Walsall, and totalled eleven.

Age Distribution

	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	Total
Number of boys	1	2	2	8	9	7	13	21	18	81

I.Q. Distribution

	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	Total
Number of boys	... 7	36	33	5	81

11.—DENTAL TREATMENT

The following report on the School Dental Service has been received from Mr. R. E. Morgan, L.D.S., Principal School Dental Officer:—

“The school dental service was again handicapped by staff shortage, two whole-time officers being responsible for the dental care of some 21,000 children. This situation appears likely to continue in spite of repeated efforts to obtain additional officers. The majority of newly qualified Dental Surgeons after completion of National Service, prefer the attractions of private practice, while the few entering school dentistry tend towards those localities remote from industrial areas. Consequently, a policy of limitation and restriction of treatment was again inevitable. The work accomplished during the year was very satisfactory in view of the available resources, but far from adequate to meet the increasing needs of the school population.

During the year 5,704 children were inspected, of whom 1,328 were emergency cases. The incidence of dental defects remained high, 82% of those seen requiring attention, compared with a national average of 70%. Response to treatment was very good, 81% of patients giving acceptance. With the widespread prevalence of dental disorders combined with the demands for treatment, the existing staff was quite inadequate to fulfil the functions of the dental scheme, the aims of which are to make provision for the total school population. A Ministry of Education policy recommends annual re-inspection, with necessary treatment, of a limited number of children, thereby providing systematic inspection; with continuous care for a proportion of the school population, rather than attempting to deal with a larger number of children by extending the period between one inspection and the next. Emergency treatment, where necessary, would be available to those not included in the scheme. By this means, the best use would be made of present resources.

The output of work during the year showed an increase in conservative treatment, fillings in permanent teeth numbering 3,031, with 2,262 teeth saved, while extractions of permanent teeth increased to 1,595 with 5,483 temporary teeth requiring removal. With the retention of the medical staff of the previous year, the clinics were again able to provide specialist facilities in general anæsthetics, these being administered on 2,734 occasions. It will be noted that details of orthodontic work are not given in the treatment records. Cases of irregularity requiring appliances were referred to the Birmingham Dental Hospital, where specialised attention is available. These numbered 51, while 6 partial dentures were fitted through the clinics to children having lost front teeth. Apart from the need of these mechanical and remedial measures, the psychological effect must not be overlooked. Many young people are very sensitive to visible dental defects and a pleasing appearance has an important bearing on the child's mental outlook.

Progress continued to be made in the Maternity and Child Welfare sphere, which comprised conservative, operative and prosthetic treatment. Expectant and nursing mothers numbering 84 received attention, while 78 pre-school children attended for extraction of carious teeth.

I would thank the staff for their excellent efforts, with a tribute to Mrs. Millar for her co-operation during the year."

12.—HEALTH EDUCATION

The lectures on hygiene and mothercraft, which have been given in previous years to senior girls, have been continued during 1957, the arrangements for the lectures being under the direction of Miss G. Johnson, the Superintendent Health Visitor. Most of the lectures have been given by members of the Health Visiting Staff.

During the year six courses of lectures were given to senior school girls, 48 lectures being given in all. In addition visits were arranged to Child Welfare Centres where practical instruction was given in the care of infants. Each course consisted of eight lectures, covering personal hygiene, general hygiene and mothercraft, and followed the pattern which proved so successful in previous years. Examinations were held at the conclusion of the mothercraft lectures and 88 first-class and 48 second-class certificates were awarded to successful candidates. Of course, the value of these lectures is not apparent until the girls marry and have children of their own. The practical interest which is always taken in the course augurs well for the intelligent interest which the girls will take in their children in later life. Indeed, we have on several occasions been thanked by young married women for the tuition which they received in their earlier years.

Increasing attention is being paid to the use of films in our lectures in schools. All lectures to girls are accompanied by a special film demonstration which is appropriate to the course of lectures being given. We find these films very effective and could wish that more were available covering this side of our activities. The girls appreciate and understand this visual aid and we are certain the benefit to them is quite appreciable.

13.—CONCLUSION

My sincere thanks are due to the Education Committee, the Director of Education and his staff, and to the Head Teachers of the schools for their very helpful co-operation during the year. There is a very satisfying liaison between the Health and Education Departments and the Schools, which undoubtedly brings the maximum benefit to the school children.

I should also like to thank the medical, nursing and administrative staff for their competent and energetic work throughout the year.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS ROSS,

Principal School Medical Officer.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1957

TABLE 1

Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (including Special Schools)

A. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Number of Inspections:

Entrants	...	...	...	1,939	
Second Age Group	...	...	...	2,083	
Third Age Group	...	...	...	1,480	
				————	Total 5,502

(2) Number of other Periodic Inspections 3,403

GRAND TOTAL 8,905

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	3,267
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	1,174
				TOTAL... 4,441

C. PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table 3 (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	13	219	229
Second Age Group ...	116	166	270
Third Age Group ...	133	105	218
Total (prescribed groups)	262	490	717
Other Periodic Inspections	199	318	500
Grand Total ...	461	808	1,217

D. CLASSIFICATION OF THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PUPILS
INSPECTED IN THE AGE GROUPS RECORDED IN TABLE 1A.

Age Groups	Number of pupils Inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Entrants ...	1,939	1,924	99.23	15	0.77
Second Age Group ...	2,083	2,058	98.80	25	1.20
Third Age Group ...	1,480	1,471	99.39	9	0.61
Other Periodic Inspections	3,403	3,333	97.94	70	2.06
Total ...	8,905	8,786	98.66	119	1.34

TABLE 2

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons	40,324
(ii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	1,742
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued	2
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued	2

TABLE 3

RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1957.

A. PERIODIC INSPECTIONS.

Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS				TOTAL (including all other age groups inspected)	
	Entrants		Leavers		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation		
Skin	24	32	12	21	113	104
Eyes—a. Vision ...	13	18	133	88	461	402
b. Squint ...	25	19	3	5	51	82
c. Other ...	16	1	4	3	36	13
Ears—a. Hearing ...	2	11	3	6	18	43
b. Otitis Media	18	51	8	35	48	197
c. Other ...	21	—	12	5	92	9
Nose and Throat ...	50	209	17	28	143	468
Speech	18	39	4	5	38	60
Lymphatic Glands ...	—	43	1	6	2	81
Heart	2	23	—	17	4	85
Lungs	17	47	2	16	26	141
Developmental—						
a. Hernia ...	4	5	3	2	13	13
b. Other ...	1	3	3	15	16	119
Orthopædic—						
a. Posture ...	3	29	9	21	67	162
b. Feet ...	3	35	12	24	57	112
c. Other ...	8	54	9	27	67	173
Nervous System—						
a. Epilepsy ...	—	5	1	1	3	15
b. Other ...	3	8	2	4	12	27
Psychological—						
a. Development	2	13	1	6	7	37
b. Stability ...	14	26	3	2	38	56
Abdomen	—	2	—	—	1	12
Other	12	55	7	19	50	241

TABLE 3.—continued

B. SPECIAL INSPECTIONS.

Defect or Disease	SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Skin	287	14
Eyes—a. Vision ...	66	35
b. Squint ...	26	14
c. Other ...	100	1
Ears—a. Hearing ...	12	9
b. Otitis Media	70	13
c. Other ...	78	8
Nose and Throat ...	159	41
Speech	26	9
Lymphatic Glands ...	31	10
Heart	26	7
Lungs	97	9
Developmental—		
a. Hernia ...	9	4
b. Other ...	11	13
Orthopædic—		
a. Posture ...	29	11
b. Feet ...	38	15
c. Other ...	189	29
Nervous System—		
a. Epilepsy ...	1	1
b. Other ...	32	4
Psychological—		
a. Development	21	9
b. Stability ...	142	4
Abdomen	3	—
Other	389	11

TABLE 4

TREATMENT TABLES

Group 1—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

	No. of cases dealt with	
	by the Authority	otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	100	—
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	949	—
Total ...	1,049	—
No. of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	788	—

Group 2.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

	Total No. treated other than by the Authority
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for diseases of the ear	4
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ...	176
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ...	2
Received other forms of treatment	6
Total ...	188

Total number of pupils in Schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids—

(a) In 1957	1
(b) In previous years	1

Group 3—ORTHOPÆIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

Number of pupils known to have been treated at clinics
or out-patient departments other than by the Authority 655

Group 4—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding Uncleanliness for which see Table 2).

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority
Ringworm—	
(i) Scalp 	—
(ii) Body 	—
Scabies 	8
Impetigo 	105
Other skin diseases 	213
Total ...	326

Group 5—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT.

No. of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics under
arrangements made by the Authority 29

Group 6—SPEECH THERAPY.

No. of pupils treated by Speech Therapists under
arrangements made by the Authority 146

Group 7—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN.

	No. of cases treated by the Authority
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments 	1,093
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements 	153
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. Vaccination 	593
(d) other than (a), (b) and (c)—	
(i) Minor Eye Defects 	108
(ii) Minor Ear Defects 	50
(iii) Post-Tonsillectomy Breathing Exercises ...	150
Total ...	2,147

TABLE 5

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—						
(a) Periodic age groups	...	...	...	...	4,376	
(b) Specials	...	...	...	...	1,328	
(c) TOTAL (periodic and specials)	...	...	...	...	—	5,704
(2) Number found to require treatment	...	...	...	...	4,709	
(3) Number offered treatment	...	...	...	...	4,071	
(4) Number actually treated	...	...	...	...	3,330	
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	...	...	...	...	4,900	
(6) Half days devoted to:—						
Inspection (Periodic)	...	...	...	...	23	
Treatment	...	...	...	...	776	
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	—	799
(7) Fillings:—						
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	3,031	
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	16	
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	—	3,047
(8) No. of teeth filled:—						
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	2,262	
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	13	
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	—	2,275
(9) Extractions:—						
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	1,595	
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	5,483	
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	—	7,078
(10) Administration of general anæsthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...		2,734
(11) Orthodontics:—						
(a) Cases commenced during the year	...	...	...	...		51
(b) Cases carried forward from previous year	...	...	...	...		—
(c) Cases completed during the year	...	...	...	...		—
(d) Cases discontinued during the year	...	...	...	...		—
(e) Pupils treated with appliances	...	...	...	...		—
(f) Removable appliances fitted	...	...	...	...		—
(g) Fixed appliances fitted	...	...	...	...		—
(h) Total attendances	...	...	...	...		—
(12) Number of pupils supplied with artificial dentures	...	...	...	...		6
(13) Other operations:—						
Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	796	
Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	146	
	...	...	...	...	—	942